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# FirstGlimpse

FirstGlimpseMag.com

SEE NEW PRODUCT ARRIVALS ON P. 5!

# Your Search For The Perfect Gift Ends Here

The Olympus FE-370 compact camera packs plenty of powerful features, and it comes at a surprisingly great price. For more information, see page 8!

A Sandhills Publication

December 2008 • $3.50 U.S.

FIRST GLIMPSE HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE DECEMBER 2008

## FEATURED ARTICLE: Get The Right Flat-Panel TV Mount Setup p.12

| HOME THEATER | DIGITAL IMAGING | COMPUTERS | WIRELESS |
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| 21 Products! | 26 Products! | 67 Products! | 42 Products! |
| Splurge On The Right HDTV p. 13 | A Primer On Camcorders p. 30 | Routers That Will Get You Connected p. 48 | Find Your Way With A GPS p. 68 |

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# FirstGlimpse®

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# Editor's Note

The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the warm feeling of going back home to spend time with my family, and I look forward to the festivities that will take place. In order to prepare for the occasion, I find myself toiling over finding *the* perfect gift for everyone in my family. Believe me when I say that the search for the right gift is well worth it—you'll be satisfied to know that they received something that they will love and cherish for years to come.

Every year, as I restart my hunt for the right gifts, I realize how much more difficult the search will be. (That's what happens when you're trying to maintain a perfect gift streak.) However, CE devices can be enjoyed by anyone young and old alike, and in this issue of *First Glimpse*, we take the hassle out of shopping endlessly for your perfect gifts by supplying you with a holiday CE guide chock full of one-page product shopping overviews. You'll discover how to select the best CE device for your recipient—from BD players to cell phones.

And, while you're scoping out your CE retailer's shelves for something shiny and new to give, don't forget that you're entitled to a treat for yourself. You'll deserve it after you've thoughtfully picked out CE gifts for others.

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P.O. Box 85380
Lincoln, NE 68501-5380

A Sandhills Publication

**Hours**
Mon. - Fri.: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (CST)
Sat.: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CST)
Online Customer Service &
Subscription Center
www.FirstGlimpseMag.com

**Authorization For Reprints:**
(800) 247-4880

*Please note:* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse

# The Latest Arrivals

## Look For These New Products

Keep an eye out for these products hitting Best Buy shelves for the first time. Some of the items listed below are showcased in this month's one-page product profiles, so be sure to take a look at the listed page numbers for more information.

### Home Theater

LG BD300 Blu-ray Player
*See page 20*

Hitachi Director's Series Ultra Thin HDTV LCD Monitor (UT47X902)
*See page 23*

Hitachi Audio Video Center (AVC08U)

### Digital Imaging

Eye-Fi Share Card
*See page 39*

### Computers

Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 7

Adobe® Premiere® Elements 7

Dell Studio Hybrid-118B Desktop

Dell Studio SMT-116B Desktop

Dell Studio SMT-117B Desktop

D-Link Xtreme N Dual Band Gigabit Router
*See page 58*

IOGEAR Wireless USB Hub and Adapter

Kensington Ci70 Keyboard with USB Ports

Kensington Wall/Air Ultra Thin Notebook Power Adapter

Kensington Wall Ultra Thin Notebook Power Adapter

Kodak ESP 7 Wireless Multifunction Printer/Copier/Scanner

Kodak ESP 9 Wireless Multifunction Printer/Copier/Scanner/Fax

### Wireless

Belkin Eco-Conscious Leather Folio for iPod classic

Belkin Eco-Conscious Leather Folio for iPod nano

Belkin Eco-Conscious Leather Folio for iPod touch

Belkin G Wireless Router

Belkin N+ Wireless Router

Belkin N Wireless Router

Belkin PowerLine AV+ Starter Kit

Belkin PowerLine AV Starter Kit

Belkin PowerLine Turbo Starter Kit

Belkin Silicone Sleeve for iPod classic

Belkin Sport Armband Plus with FastFit for iPod classic

Belkin Susan G. Komen Sport Armband for iPod classic

Belkin Wireless G+ MIMO Router

Belkin Wireless N+ USB Adapter

Kensington K33430US LiquidAUX Deluxe
*See page 78*

Magellan Maestro 4370
*See page 80*

Nyko Charge Base 360 for Xbox 360

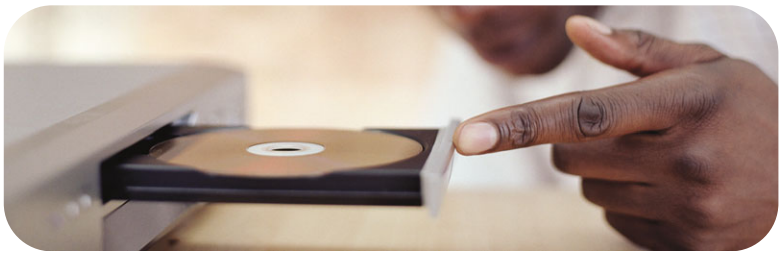
Nyko Intercooler TS for PS3

Nyko Intercooler TS for Xbox 360

Nyko Media Hub+ for PS3

Olympus WS–210 S Digital Voice Recorder

Slacker G2 Personal Radio Player
*See page 76*



# ce news

Compiled by Jennie Schlueter

## Alltel Debuts nuTsie

Alltel Wireless customers can now listen to their iTunes library of music on their mobile phones. The capability is provided by nuTsie, a service that will be available on more than 10 of Alltel's wireless handsets. For $4.99 a month or $19.99 a year, nuTsie subscribers will be able to play their own iTunes playlists as well as share the lists with friends across the Internet and on their mobile devices. For now, nuTsie is available for MOTORAZR V3m and V3c, MOTOKRZR K1m, MOTORAZR V9m, MOTOROKR Z6m, LG AX565, The Wave by LG, LG AX8600, Samsung Muse, Alltel Hue by Samsung, and The Wafer by Samsung. Alltel will announce more handsets that are compatible with nuTsie in the coming months.

## Best Buy To Purchase Napster

In a bid to strengthen its position in online music sales, Best Buy is buying Napster for $121 million. With nearly 700,000 subscribers, Napster holds about half of the market for subscription services that offer digital music. Napster shareholders will receive $2.65 a share out of the deal, which is expected to close in Q4. Best Buy has stated that it may expand Napster in the future to include online music and television offerings.

## Camera Demographics

A recent digital imaging survey done by PMA indicates that 15% of U.S. households made a new camera or camcorder purchase in 2007. Households with an annual income of $50,000 or more were more than twice as likely as low-income households (earning less than $25,000 annually) to buy a new camera or camcorder. Households with children between the ages of six and 12 were more likely to make a new camera purchase than households without children. But households with children tended to spend the least amount of money on average. Retired households made infrequent purchases, but when they did buy, they spent more money than working households.

## PCs Persist Despite Poor Economy

Buoyed by low-cost portable PCs, worldwide PC shipments are projected to grow by 15.7% to 311 million units in 2008, according to IDC's Worldwide Quarterly PC Tracker. This growth should remain strong through 2011, only dropping to the single digits at 9% in 2012, with annual shipments of more than 482 million units in that year.

Although growth in the Asia/Pacific region slowed a bit in Q2, Western Europe experienced a jump from 12% in 2007 to 23% in 2008. Analysts are attributing much of this growth to the fact that more consumers are buying portable PCs as prices continue to drop, wireless technologies become more advanced, and consumers integrate computers into their everyday lives.

**Worldwide PC Shipments By Form Factor 2007-2012 (In Millions)**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Desktop & x86 Server | 161.1 | 163.2 | 166.6 | 173.7 | 178.7 | 184.3 |
| Portables | 108 | 148.2 | 187.4 | 227.8 | 263.1 | 298.3 |
| Total | 269.1 | 311.4 | 354 | 401.5 | 441.8 | 482.6 |

*Source: IDC*

## U.S. Wireless Usage & Subscribers

The total number of wireless users in the United States jumped by 20 million users to 262 million from June 2007 to June 2008. And a recent survey found that many of those customers were using their wireless devices for more than talking. CTIA-The Wireless Association released the results of its annual wireless industry survey, revealing that data services revenue for the first half of 2008 reached $14.8 billion. Non-voice data services now account for 20% of all wireless service revenue, indicating that consumers are using their mobile phones to do much more than phone home.

*Source: CTIA-The Wireless Association*

## tidbits

U.S. wireless customers sent an average of 2.5 billion **text messages** a day during the month of June.

*Source: CTIA-The Wireless Association*

On average, there are 21 **consumer electronics** devices per U.S. household.

*Source: NPD Group*

A recent poll of 1,500 consumers found that more than 50% of respondents were interested in **home automation** services to control such things as heating, air conditioning, and appliances.

*Source: IDC*

By 2011, mobile phones with navigation capabilities will overtake **PNDs** (personal navigation devices) by claiming 36% of total navigation system shipments, with PNDs claiming 30%.

*Source: iSuppli*

Owning a camera phone but not a **DSC** (digital still camera) has no effect on 60% of survey respondents' plans to buy a DSC, according to a recent study.

*Source: InfoTrends*

The number of worldwide **mobile phone** subscribers is expected to reach 4 billion by the end of 2008.

*Source: International Telecommunication Union*

# Olympus FE-370

## A Camera For All Occasions

When celebrating the holidays, opening presents, and taking time to relax, there are plenty of great photo opportunities. Giving your loved one a digicam allows that special person in your life to capture the holiday spirit. Still, not every digital camera is portable enough to conveniently carry at all holiday events or capable of effectively taking photos in a shadowy tree-lit living room. The Olympus FE-370 ($199.99; www.olympusamerica.com) is a slim camera that offers all of the features you need to snap portraits, capture gift-opening action shots, and freeze-frame snowy landscapes.

### Fun & Easy

Designed for one-button operation, the FE-370 lets you switch between shooting modes in seconds, so you can change the camera to the ideal setting without missing a moment. The FE-370 features a handy dial to change the camera's shooting mode. From the Scene mode, you can pick from 19 shooting situations, including Portrait, Smile Shot, Sunset, Night Scene, Sports, Landscape, and Fireworks. With such a wide variety of preset options, the FE-370 helps ensure that you'll be able to take a great photo in almost any situation. For instance, to capture the warm glow from the fireplace on a family member's face, you can switch the FE-370 to the Scene mode and select the Candle option, which will enhance the environment's warm colors.

Olympus FE-370
$199.99
www.olympusamerica.com

Besides simple mode selection, this 8MP camera also features photo-enhancing technology to help you capture the perfect shot. It integrates Dual Image Stabilization, which combines the advantages of mechanical and digital image stabilization, to significantly reduce blur in your photos. Dual Image Stabilization is particularly handy when you need to quickly move the camera to catch a subject in action, such as snapping a photo of your nephew running around the tree with his new toy.

For improved portraits, the camera also includes a Face Detection feature that can track up to 16 faces and automatically calibrate the camera so that everyone in the photo is in focus and optimally lit. You'll appreciate the Face Detection feature when shooting a big group portrait where it can be difficult to see if everyone is in focus. Another helpful portrait feature on the FE-370 is Smile Shot mode, which detects smiles on your subjects and automatically snaps three consecutive shots. The Smile Shot mode is great for parents with young kids who want to capture that hard-to-predict smile.

No matter which effect you choose to use, the FE-370's Perfect Shot Preview technology will let you see exactly how the image will appear before you snap the photo. The FE-370's Perfect Shot Preview can also help educate a novice shutterbug about how different shooting effects (such as Night Landscape, Macro, or Sports) impact the image's final appearance. Beginning photographers can set the FE-370 to the iAuto (intelligent Auto) mode and let the camera automatically select which shooting mode is appropriate for the scene.

## Portable & Rugged

Less than an inch thick and weighing 4.5 ounces, the FE-370 can easily fit into a shirt or coat pocket. With a 5X optical zoom, the FE-370 provides the ability to zoom in and appropriately frame faraway subjects that may otherwise go unnoticed, such as carolers down the street or a snowshoe hare under a pine tree. The camera's lens is smartly stored inside the camera's body, and the integrated lens cover only opens when you turn on the camera, so you don't need to worry about protecting the lens while the camera is in your pocket. To frame shots, the FE-370 includes a 2.7-inch, high-resolution LCD screen that's bright enough to see in daylight.

## Edit Your Images On The Go

You may not always have time to sit down and edit your digital images before printing. Fortunately, the FE-370 features a number of integrated editing tools, so you can lighten shadows, remove red-eye, crop, and add effects to the images stored on your camera.

## It Teaches, Too

The FE-370 features a Shooting Guide to help those new to photography improve their skills. Select Guide on the mode wheel, and you'll see a list of the common photography situations you may experience. For instance, if you select the Brightening Subject option, the in-camera guide offers you two solutions: increasing the exposure or configuring the camera to use the integrated flash. Once you select a solution, the FE-370 automatically implements the appropriate measure settings, and you're ready to take the photo. The next time you face a similar dilemma, you can make appropriate adjustments or use the Guide option to fix the problem.

## Everything You Need

The FE-370 comes with the Olympus Master 2 image-editing software, which helps you edit, organize, and share the digital images you capture. For simplicity, the Olympus Master software includes a One-Touch Image Editing tool that automatically brightens up and removes flaws in your digital images, such as red-eye in your portraits. You can arrange your photos by folder, album, date, or a custom order, so it's easy to locate the image you need. Within the application, you can also email photos to your friends or easily upload movies to YouTube as well as print your images.

And one final thing to remember: Make sure the FE-370 is the first gift your loved one opens, so he or she can take those holiday photos right away. FG

# Going Digital

## How Will The Upcoming TV Conversion Affect You?

On Feb. 17, 2009, television broadcasters across the nation will begin sending out their programming via DTV (digital TV) signals.

### Why Digital?

Analog broadcasts have worked well for a long time, so many wonder why we have to make the switch at all, let alone next year. There are a variety of reasons to go digital, but the primary one is to conserve what has quickly become one of our most precious natural resources: radio spectrum. There's a fixed amount of spectrum, meaning there are only so many frequencies available to handle television, radio, cell phone, networking, emergency, and other wireless traffic.

Analog and digital transmissions eat up the same amount of bandwidth, but there's a big difference between the two technologies. Digital transmissions can have compression and other techniques applied that are off-limits to analog transmissions. These tricks let broadcasters squeeze several digital channels into the same amount of bandwidth that one analog channel requires. This is important where HDTV broadcasts are concerned because HDTV transmissions require more bandwidth than standard-definition channels. We have no way to increase available radio spectrum, so we must decrease the amount of spectrum each channel requires. Digital is vital today, where hundreds of channels must coexist.

### What About Analog?

An analog TV can't use a digital signal. A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) must receive the incoming digital signal, convert it to analog, and output the signal to your analog TV. If you have an analog TV and subscribe to cable or satellite (digital or otherwise), you already have the hardware that incorporates a DAC—so few of us will notice the difference once the content switches to all digital.

If you're using an antenna to pull in free OTA (over-the-air) broadcasts, you may have a problem. Right now, broadcasters transmit digital and analog OTA signals simultaneously, but on Feb. 17, 2009, the analog transmissions will stop. If your TV has an analog tuner, you'll need a DAC box to convert the digital signal. If your TV has a digital tuner, however, you'll be able to enjoy OTA broadcasts. Check out the "Are You Ready For DTV?" sidebar for a convenient breakdown.

If your TV was manufactured after March 1, 2007, it has to have a digital tuner. Otherwise, check the manual or call the manufacturer to see what type of tuner is installed. Keep in mind that even if you have a digital HDTV, it may still have an analog tuner, as crazy as that sounds.

DACs are available in preparation for the switch, but they're not free; the NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) is subsidizing the cost. The most important thing to keep in mind before the transition is that there's no need to panic. Your old TVs won't become worthless, and new TVs will be ready to go once the digital switch is thrown, without you needing to buy any additional hardware, cables, or other accessories. FG

BY TRACY BAKER

## Are You Ready For DTV?

Most of us are already prepared to usher in the age of all-digital television, but refer to this chart for each television you have in the house to see what type of hardware you need come Feb. 17, 2009.

| What Tuner Type Does Your TV Have? | How Do You Receive Your TV Signal? | What You Need For The DTV Transition: |
|---|---|---|
| An analog tuner | Over-the-air | A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) box |
| An analog tuner | Via cable or satellite service | Your existing cable or satellite equipment |
| A digital tuner | Over-the-air, cable, or satellite service | Nothing extra at all |

# Yes, You Need To Calibrate

## Give Your HDTV A Makeover

It's probably for the best that we consumers don't have access to the settings that will make our HDTVs look their best. Sure, you can use a calibration disc, but chances are good that the TV's menu controls won't let you do everything those discs suggest you do. The advanced stuff requires a trip to the HDTV's service menu, which is accessed by punching a secret code into your remote control. We don't advise that you do so, however, because you can ruin your TV.

The HDTV manufacturers keep the code a secret for a reason: Poking around in the wrong places can have devastating consequences. "Consumers should never go into the service menu," says Ira George, an ISF-certified Elite Services Specialist for Geek Squad (www.geeksquad.com) in Omaha, Neb. "If they don't know what they're doing, they will render the TV useless."

Indeed, one ISF-certified calibrator we spoke with years ago during a calibration session told us the sad tale of a customer who entered the service menu and accidentally turned off the electron guns used to display an image on the screen. He couldn't see anything—including the service menu—and his television was essentially broken until the ISF calibrator arrived to save the day.

As if going into the service menu isn't perilous enough, there's not much the average consumer can do once they get there. You need pricey equipment to adjust the settings found there—exactly the kind of equipment ISF-certified calibrators have. "We use calibration equipment provided by Sencore," says George. "It is a color analyzer that is used to set the white balance of the customers' displays. Without that equipment, customers cannot accurately set the colors of their televisions."

There are only a few downsides to calibration. The first is that it can't be done right out of the box. "It is recommended that the TV have at least 100 hours of use before a calibration can be performed properly," says George. There also are a few things calibration can't overcome. "Calibration cannot correct alignment issues in rear-projection TVs," George says. "Calibration also cannot correct any service issues with the TV."

Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration session, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come. FG

BY TRACY BAKER

## What To Expect From A Calibration

If you decide to call in Geek Squad's Home Theater Calibration team to calibrate your HDTV, you can expect the Agents to establish maximum contrast between black and white, so images look their best and retain maximum detail. The ISF-certified Elite Service Specialist will also use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible, letting you see video exactly the same way that the person creating it did.

A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so if you have a DVD player and cable box, for example, the HDTV's inputs will be calibrated specifically for the video output from those two devices. Calibration also adjusts the sound levels and positioning of the speakers in a surround-sound setup, so your entire home theater will look and sound as good as it can.

# Hang It Up

## Get The Right Flat-Panel Mount For Your HDTV

There's no denying that mounting LCD and plasma flat-panel displays on a wall is best from both an aesthetic and practical standpoint. Setting it up this way shows off just how thin the panel really is, makes it easier to achieve the recommended viewing distance, and just looks cool.

Best Buy offers three different categories of wall mounts for flat-panel displays: low-profile, tilting, and full-motion. Low-Profile mounts keep the set as flush to the wall as possible but offer limited or no ability to tilt the HDTV. These work well in rooms where you can control ambient lighting so that glare doesn't interfere with the picture.

Tilting models mount the set on a hinge to let you tilt it up or down a bit, and full-motion mounts let you pull the set out from the wall, tilt it up or down, and rotate it left or right. These are excellent options when the set is located in a room where glare is a problem or in a room where people will tend to watch the television in bed or while sitting on the floor so the set can be pointed at an angle that makes viewing it more comfortable. Full-motion mounts are also ideal for mounting an HDTV in a corner because their arms can extend to give the TV clearance from each wall while still letting it retain its ability to tilt up and down.

Some of the most advanced mounts, such as the Sanus LA112-B1 ($899.99; www.sanus.com), are motorized to offer the best of all worlds. The LA112-B1 comes with a remote control that lets you tilt, swivel, and extend the mount without even leaving the couch.

### Geek Squad Flat-Panel Mounting Services

| Service | Price | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| HDTV Mounting Services* | $99.99<br>$199.99<br>$399.99 | For HDTVs up to 32 inches<br>For HDTVs 33 to 60 inches<br>For HDTVs 61 inches and larger |
| TV Wire Conceal Service | $49.99 | Service does not include the concealment of AC power cords |

### Bundled Services That Include Flat-Panel Mounting

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Advance Home Theater Setup & Mount | $449.99 | **Service Includes:** TV & Video Setup, TV Mounting 33 to 60 inches, TV Wire Conceal, Speaker Setup |
| Premium Home Theater Setup & Mount | $799.99 | **Service Includes:** TV & Video Setup, TV Mounting 33 to 60 inches, TV Wire Conceal, Speaker Setup, Speaker Mounting |

* All TV Mounting Services must be purchased with a Setup service (TV & Video Setup $99.99 or Standard Home Theater Setup $199.99).

### Leave It To The Pros

Mounts can be tricky to install, particularly if you have a large, heavy flat-panel display, so you can let Geek Squad take all of the guesswork out of it by opting for one of its Home Theater Setup & Mounting packages. (See the "Geek Squad Flat-Panel Mounting Services" sidebar for more information.) Geek Squad Agents can even conceal all the wires in the wall behind the set, providing that truly professional look that can elevate your HDTV from the realm of electronics into the realm of art. FG

BY TRACY BAKER

# Defining Entertainment

## Shop For The Perfect HDTV

There's something exciting about shopping for a new HDTV. Then again, it's a little overwhelming to see row upon row of screens all tuned to the same channel, not to mention model numbers that look like eye charts. Let's break it all down into steps, so you can get the best viewing experience possible.

**Budget.** The first cut depends on the amount you absolutely, positively can spend. Don't forget to budget for sales tax, as well as for necessities such as professional calibration (which can save you money on your electric bill) and a high-quality HDMI cable (which carries all audio and video signals in a single cable) to connect to your disc player. Optional expenses include a TV stand or a wall mount, delivery, and setup. Keep in mind that professional installation services may cost a little more, but they simplify things and ensure your system is working properly.

**Size.** Next, decide on the size of HDTV you want. Your budget may dictate this, as bigger TVs cost more.

Remember that a picture on a 27-inch flat panel with a 16:9 aspect ratio will not look the same size as it does on your old 27-inch TV with a 4:3 aspect ratio. Objects on-screen will appear in higher resolution but smaller. If you want the picture to appear bigger, you'll need to buy a bigger set.

Also, if you plan to shoehorn your new HDTV into an existing entertainment center, make sure that it will fit. It may sound silly, but don't confuse a TV's diagonal screen size, such as 42 inches, with its overall width and height.

**Usage.** Other considerations include what you'll watch and where you'll watch it. For fast-moving content, such as adventure movies or sports, look to models that can keep up with the action without judder or ghosting. In a sunny room, you'll want a bright picture. But in a dark home theater, you'll want a high contrast ratio (deeper blacks).

LG PG60 plasma
$2,699.95 to $4,099.95
us.lge.com

**Resolution.** HDTVs currently come in two resolutions, or pixel counts. A 1080 set (1,920 pixels wide by 1,080 high) offers more detail than a 720 (1,280 x 720) model, although both look sharper than an old, standard-definition TV.

Consider a 1080 set mandatory if you watch a lot of sports, as networks can pack a lot of very legible stats and scores around the edges of a high-def screen. A 1080 HDTV also can make upconverted DVDs look better.

**Connections.** Make sure that your new HDTV has enough connectors of the right types for your disc player, game console, set-top box, DVR, and so on. For details on cables and devices, turn to "Essential Things To Know: Home Theater" on page 18.

**HD source.** Your HDTV won't give you a high-def picture unless the signal going into your set is HD, too. Not all digital channels are really HD, so you'll get the best image quality from true HD sources.

**A final word.** After you've whittled down your list of potential HDTVs, take a hard look at the remaining candidates' image quality. Keep in mind that TVs at the store may have garish color and brightness settings to catch your eye, and remember that they'll look more natural when properly calibrated. FG

BY MARTY SEMS

# Amiable Audio For All

## Shop For The Perfect Home-Theater Speakers

Klipsch CS-700 2.1 Home Theater
$1,299.99 • www.klipsch.com

Investing money in a home-theater system is no small consideration, so we want to educate you on the must-know information about home-theater speakers. Keep in mind the points below before you test systems at your local CE retailer.

### Budget Breakdown

One of the most cost-efficient ways to make sure you get what you pay for is by researching prior to shopping. If you were to divide your home-theater budget into a percentage chart, you would need to allocate 30% of the total expense toward a speaker system. (Other categories would include an HDTV and wiring.)

### Setup & Connections

The placement of speakers in relation to home-theater listeners is a key aspect of positioning home-theater speakers. Therefore it's important to take into account the size of your room and find the right speakers to fill the space with sound. Remember that each speaker should be appropriately situated in the best spot for quality sound dispersal.

No matter which speaker system you prefer, you'll first need to ensure that the speaker connections are compatible with your HDTV unless you choose a home-theater system with wireless capabilities, such as Klipsch's CS-700 2.1 Home Theater, which includes a wireless subwoofer ($1,299.99; www.klipsch.com). Your speakers and HDTV should support composite stereo, TOSLINK (fiber-optic), and/or digital coaxial connections, although HDMI will provide the clearest audio.

You can bypass all of this labor, however, by trusting the pros to do the work for you. We recommend that you take advantage of the experts at your local CE retailer who can configure your audio system with precise execution.

### Audio Expectations

A standard surround-sound speaker system features the following: a front-center speaker, two front speakers (left and right), no fewer than two rear speakers, and one subwoofer. A 2.1 configuration (two stereo speakers and a subwoofer) will support Dolby 2.0 Surround on DVDs but may not sound as impressive. With a 5.1, 6.1, or 7.1 surround-sound system, all levels are audible—even soft dialogue. This way, you won't miss the low-frequency thundering on your favorite movie soundtrack.

No matter which type of system you take home, it should perform to your highest expectations. FG

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

### It's Your Choice

As you're planning the layout of your home-theater room, don't forget that you have two speaker setup options. If you prefer not to think about how to match your speakers with your receiver and would rather purchase your home theater as a "lump sum," choose an HTB, or home theater in a box. This kit typically includes five or more speakers, a subwoofer, a receiver, and another component such as a Blu-ray Disc player.

For those who view home-theater assembly as a DIY project, buying individual speaker components might seem more practical. This involves choosing the appropriate receiver, speakers, and subwoofer for your particular room. Going this route lets you select a customized speaker setup (floor-standing, wall-mounted, bookshelf, etc.) that will resonate clearly on all levels. ●

# Consider Your Options: BD, DVD . . . PS3?

## Shop For The Perfect Disc Player

Even in today's world of TiVo, cable and satellite service, media extenders, Apple TV, and VOD (video-on-demand), a DVD or BD (Blu-ray Disc) player is still the foundation of the home cinema experience. When you're ready to shop for a new player, this article can help you find the right model for your needs.

### Generation Gap

Your budget may determine the kind of disc player you can bring home, as there's a definite price difference between BD and DVD systems. Upconverting DVD players start near the $50 mark, while BD players cost $230 or more.

A BD player is the superior choice, as Blu-ray movies give you a sharper picture and clearer audio than DVD. Prices of BD players have dropped significantly during the last year, although movie prices have been more stable. Must-have BD features include HDMI 1.3, broad support for high-def audio formats such as Dolby Digital Plus, and DVD upconversion capability. Optionally, you might want support for Bonus View (picture-in-picture) or BD Live (content downloads over an Internet connection).

On the other hand, a high-quality upconverting DVD player can make your existing movie collection look nearly as good as BD on an HDTV and can do so at a much more affordable price. Again, consider HDMI essential for connection to current and future HDTVs, although for DVD, you don't have to worry about the HDMI version number. Look for onboard decoding of Dolby Digital and DTS, too, unless you plan to use a receiver to decode these audio formats.

### Future-Proofing

Any time you buy an addition to your home theater, think about how well it will work with future upgrades. For instance, it's worth buying an upconverting DVD over a standard one, even if you don't plan to get an HDTV for a while. For that matter, a typical BD player can serve you today by upconverting your DVDs, even if you have no urge to buy Blu-ray movies just yet.

### Reputation

Quality matters. That doesn't mean you should assume that Brand A is always better than Brand B, as either company can have good and not-so-good models. Once you've winnowed your list down to a few players, look for reviews and customer feedback.

### Usability

Finally, ask to try out your favorite prospective player in an electronics store. Does it take more than a minute to load a BD? Is it easy to find buttons on the remote control? Does its upconversion of DVDs look good at a normal viewing distance?

### Game On

Note that some video game consoles, such as the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360, also play movie discs. The PS3 supports BD and DVD, and the Xbox 360 plays DVD. Both systems are sold at a loss and act as media extenders, too, so they're worth your attention as more than just game machines. FG

BY MARTY SEMS

# Your Home Theater Go-To Guys

## Home Theater Installation Services

Back in the day, setting up a TV was a cinch, but these days it's a lot more complicated. Geek Squad Home Theater Installation service lets you sit back and envision your ultimate viewing and listening environment, while leaving the design, configuration, and installation to the Geek Squad's expert agents.

### In-Home Consultation

The Geek Squad offers an in-home consultation service. Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-GEEK SQUAD (1-800-433-5778) or by visiting your local Best Buy.

The Geek Squad Agents spend roughly an hour helping you build your dream A/V system. They can perform a preliminary walk-through of your home, discussing with you different A/V possibilities and offering advice on choosing the right products and services. The cost of the service, which includes a detailed estimate of costs and a diagram of the proposed layout, is $99.99. With an in-home consultation, you will receive a $100 coupon that can be used towards a future home-theater purchase of $499 and up.

**In-store experience.** Many Best Buy stores feature a Magnolia demo room, in which you'll see and hear what a high-performance home-theater setup should look and sound like in a comfortable living room setup. A sales associate will ascertain what it is that you want from a home-theater system. They'll also make sure you'll have the proper cables and accessories for the best A/V results, as well as ensure you're informed about the product. For instance, if you purchase a new HDTV, the sales associate can educate you about the local availability of digital cable, satellite, and over-the-air services.

**In-home installation.** TV & Video Setup costs $99.99 and includes the plugging in, configuring, and setting up of seven select video components. If you wish to add audio integration, the Standard Home Theater Setup combines a TV & Video Setup with Speaker Setup for $199.99. Other services, such as calibration, on-wall TV mounting, and remote control programming, are available, as well.

### One-Stop Shop

You already know that Best Buy has plenty of the CE products you want, and now you know that you can get it all installed and configured to your liking with the help of the Geek Squad's Home Theater Installation service. Perhaps the most important aspect of the service is that the Geek Squad Agents will teach you to become the expert of your own home theater. FG

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

### Available Services

Geek Squad offers a range of flexible and comprehensive services to help you realize your ideal home-theater system.

- Consultation
- Delivery and setup
- TV mounting
- Speaker installation
- Universal remotes
- Home-theater calibration

### Price Breakdown

Geek Squad offers a complete list of professional installation services that feature a clear pricing scheme so you can make sure you get a system that fits your lifestyle and your budget.

- In-Home Consultation: $99.99
- TV & Video Setup: $99.99
- Standard Home Theater Setup (bundled service): $199.99
- Calibration: $299.99
- TV Mounting:*
  - Up to 32 inches: $99.99
  - 33 to 60 inches: $199.99
  - 61 inches or bigger: $399.99
- Front Projector Installation: $599.99
- Speaker Setup: $149.99
- Speaker Mounting: $24.99
- Soundbar Setup: $149.99
- Remote Control Programming: $149.99

* Must be purchased with TV & Video Setup or Standard Home Theater Setup

# HDTVs

## The Goods On LCDs, Plasmas & RPTVs

### LCD

**Pros**

- The thin profiles and light weight of these televisions make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.
- Many LCD TVs have a VGA input, so you can hook up your computer and view content on a big, bright screen.
- Altitude and air pressure have no effect on LCD TVs, so performance doesn't suffer in the mountains.
- Image burn-in is unlikely.

**Cons**

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer-effect, but as LCD technology has improved, the effect has become barely perceptible.
- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black and can be distracting on-screen.

**Best For**

- Bright, sunny kitchens
- Small rooms

### Plasma

**Pros**

- Plasma TVs light phosphors evenly across the screen to create images, and the images are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high (30,000:1), so you'll see deep, dark blacks and bright, crisp whites.
- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

**Cons**

- Although the risk has been greatly reduced through advances in flat-screen technology, some plasma TVs are still susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- A combination of low air pressure and high altitudes (6,500 feet and higher) may cause plasma TVs to buzz.

**Best For**

- Movies with nonstop action
- Sporting events

### RPTV

**Pros**

- Although often heavier than their LCD and plasma counterparts, RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and greater).
- As screens get bigger, RPTVs are more cost-effective than LCD or plasma TVs.

**Cons**

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.
- RPTVs still require that lamps, which may cost a few hundred dollars, be replaced every few years.

**Best For**

- Big, roomy home theaters
- Movies and games

# Essential THINGS TO KNOW

## Home-Theater Accessories

### Cables

**Q What is the best video cable for my home theater?**

A From best to worst, HDMI or DVI; Component video; S-Video; and Composite. Use the best cable supported.

**Q What is the best audio cable?**

A HDMI will give you the best fidelity with the latest audio formats in a compatible receiver. Optical and coaxial digital cables are close behind in quality.

**Q Does it matter whether I buy cheap or high-end cables?**

A A poor-quality cable can degrade video and audio signals. Quality cables have purer wires, more resilient construction, and better shielding against interference.

**Q Why are some cable connectors plated in gold?**

A Gold doesn't corrode as quickly as most other metals, so a cable with gold-plated connectors should maintain its signal-carrying efficiency better than ordinary cables.

### DACs (digital-to-analog converters)

**Q How do I know if I need a DAC for my HDTV?**

A If your HDTV doesn't have a built-in digital TV tuner (also called an ATSC [Advanced Television Systems Committee] tuner), you'll need a DAC to receive digital broadcasts.

**Q What's the advantage of an HDTV with a built-in digital tuner vs. renting or purchasing a DAC?**

A You can receive digital signals without the need for a separate box that takes up space.

**Q Will I need a DAC to receive digital TV broadcasts on an analog TV?**

A If you're using an antenna to watch over-the-air broadcasts, you'll need a DAC.

**Q Will a DAC box guarantee that all my programming will be available in HD?**

A FCC rules force broadcasters to send out a digital signal by February 2009. However, there's no rule that says the content must be recorded in HD.

## Universal Remote Controls

**Q What's an "activity control" remote?**

A Also known as device control, remotes that feature this capability typically let you control your HT components by selecting an activity, such as "Watch TV" or "Play DVD."

**Q What is the purpose of an RF extender?**

A An RF (radio frequency) extender receives RF transmissions from your universal remote control and redistributes the signal to increase the distance your remote will function.

**Q How many components can a universal remote actually control?**

A Most remotes manage between 10 and 20 different components. Some high-end remotes can control more than 200 devices, components, or even zones in your home-theater system.

**Q What's the difference between backlit buttons and an LCD touchscreen?**

A Backlighting simply illuminates the remote buttons so you can see them more easily; an LCD touchscreen lets you press the screen with your finger.

**Q Why do some remotes require a PC with Windows compatibility?**

A Some universal remote controls use setup wizards on a PC to program certain functions. You may need to use software that is compatible with a particular OS to customize your remote.

## Calibration

**Q What is involved in a TV calibration?**

A Calibration refers to the process of adjusting the parameters of your TV or home-theater components so that they more accurately display colors, generate a realistic sound field, and perform as intended.

**Q Can I calibrate my TV on my own?**

A You can make some broad adjustments to your home-theater components, but the TV's and home theater's finer controls reside in hidden menus that should only be adjusted by experienced professionals.

**Q Isn't a new TV already set up to display an optimal picture?**

A Showroom TVs are set up to display the best picture given the ambient qualities of the showroom. Calibrate your TV to get the best picture for your environment.

**Q What does calibration do for my speaker system?**

A A calibrated home-theater system consists of a properly adjusted A/V receiver, speakers that operate correctly for the surround-sound system, and properly positioned speakers.

**Q What else does calibration do for my home theater?**

A A calibrated home-theater system typically saves energy. Noncalibrated TVs are typically over-bright, which, in extreme cases, can shorten the life of the set and expend more electricity than necessary.

# Blu-ray Player

## The World's First Network Blu-ray Disc Player That Streams From Netflix—Instantly

LG Network Blu-ray Disc Player (BD300)

MSRP: $349.95

SKU: 9028009

www.LGusa.com/bluray

### Quick Overview

- Watch your favorite movie in high definition on a Blu-ray Disc
- View regular DVDs in near-HD quality up-scaled to 1080p
- Access up to 12,000 select Netflix® movies and TV episodes in standard definition

### Perfect For

Movie buffs who crave HD movie quality and those who want instant Netflix® access.

### Outstanding Benefits

- **Blu-ray Disc technology**—this next-generation optical disc format brings you the highest full-HD 1080p experience, offering up to five times the digital detail of traditional DVDs
- **BD Live**—coupled with a high-speed Internet connection, BD Live gives you the advantage of interactive movie experiences, exclusive downloads, and tons of extra features
- **1080p upscaling of standard DVDs**—brilliant image quality from standard DVDs with 1080p upscaling
- **Advanced audio**—superior surround-sound experience with Dolby Digital Plus, Dolby True HD, and DTS-HD Advanced Digital Out

### Coolest Feature

Get **Netflix® movies streamed* instantly** to the LG BD300. Choose from a separate smaller library of Classics, TV episodes, and some new releases.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

* High-speed Internet access and a Netflix® subscription required. Subscriptions sold separately. Movies and TV episodes appear in standard definition and do not include many new releases.

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# LCD TV
## Stylish Design, Superior Performance

LG 52-inch 1080p 120Hz Flat-Panel LCD HDTV (52LG70)

MSRP: $2,999

SKU: 8833747

www.LGusa.com

### Quick Overview

- LG's 52LG70 LCD HDTV combines eye-catching design with enhanced features in order to deliver superior picture and audio quality. The 52LG70's elegant teardrop design is accentuated with clean lines, an invisible speaker system, and soft-touch controls to create a truly premium HDTV.
- **LG is currently offering 36-month financing on all HDTVs $1,499 and above plus $200 toward any Geek Squad purchase, such as installation, delivery, etc.**

### Perfect For

Home-theater enthusiasts looking for premium performance and stylish design.

### Outstanding Benefits

- Full HD 1080p resolution
- ISFccc Calibration ready
- TruMotion 120Hz technology
- Invisible speaker system with Clear Voice technology
- 24p Real Cinema
- 4x HDMI™ V.1.3 with Deep Color
- LG SimpLink™ Connectivity
- 15,000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
- USB 2.0 jack for viewing JPEG photos or listening to MP3 music files

### Coolest Feature

LG's **Intelligent Sensor** automatically evaluates its surroundings and processes picture quality elements, such as brightness, contrast, color, sharpness, and white balance, for the best optimized video results.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

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MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
DIGITAL TELEVISIONS

# LCD TV
# Immerse Yourself In Big Picture & Sound

## Mitsubishi 149 Series LCD Flat-Panel HDTVs (LT-46149/LT-52149)

MSRP: 46-inch model $2,999
SKU: 8961368

MSRP: 52-inch model $3,399
SKU: 8961634

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

## Quick Overview

The Mitsubishi 149 Series flat-panel TVs with immersive sound provide a simple, space-saving solution for built-in surround sound in your home-theater setup. Without clutter, such as extra cables or speakers*, these TVs feature an UltraThin Frame™, which will give you more picture and sound without taking up precious space.

## Perfect For

The 149 Series is ideal for home-theater enthusiasts with limited space who are looking for an immersive home-theater experience with a single, stylish, sophisticated unit.*

## Outstanding Benefits

- **1080p LCD flat-panel display** with Tru1080p™ and Plush1080p® Processing
- **Integrated sound projector** for true-to-life 5.1 surround sound*
- **Exclusive 6-Color Processor™** produces bright colors and whiter whites
- **Smooth 120Hz™** minimizes blur
- **Deep Color and x.v.Color™** enables more color than ever before
- **Four SimplayHD-certified HDMI 1.3a inputs**
- **NetCommand®** provides a true one-remote control home-theater system
- **USB input** enables you to easily connect USB devices
- **Digital cable-ready CableCARD slot** allows quick and easy cable setup

## Coolest Feature

The 16-Speaker **Integrated Sound Projector** with variable subwoofer preout gives you true-to-life 5.1 surround sound without bulky receivers or additional speakers.*

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

* Adding a powered subwoofer to the TV is recommended for the best sound.

FirstGlimpse

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

# LCD TV
# The Thinnest Large Screen HDTV Monitor Available

Director's Series
UltraThin 1.5

MSRP: $3,199.95
SKU: 9018644

www.hitachi.us/tv

## Quick Overview

The Hitachi Director's Series® UltraThin 1.5 model UT47X902 is the thinnest large screen HDTV monitor available at a mere 1.5 inches thin. A high-precision Black Sapphire Crystal Frame surrounds the image and is beveled to present the picture like a work of art. This HDTV includes In-Plane Switching LCD technology for the widest viewing angles and color purity as well as an industry leading PictureMaster™ video processor for the most realistic picture possible.

## Perfect For

The décor-conscious, the aficionado, the connoisseur, and the stylish.

## Outstanding Benefits

- 1.5-inch Thin Crystal Frame
- Stunning 360° Design
- Full HD 1080p
- 120Hz with Motion Interpolation
- UltraWide 178° Viewing Angle
- Fanless Energy Efficient Design

## Coolest Feature

**The UltraThin 1.5 UT47X902 is a mere 1.5 inches thin, the thinnest large screen HDTV available on the consumer market today**. When combined with a commonly available ultra-thin wall mount of 0.4 inches, the total mounting depth of this 47-inch class (46.96 inches diagonally measured) HDTV monitor is an industry best. With a 1.9-inch total mounting depth, it is the realization of an installation inspired by style and design.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

PANAMAX

# A/V Power Conditioner/Surge Protector
# Improve Picture & Sound Quality, Protect Components

## Panamax M5100-PM Power Management System

MSRP: $399.95
SKU: 8249415

www.panamax.com

## Quick Overview

With its Level 3 Power Cleaning and Linear Filtration, the M5100-PM will improve your A/V equipment's picture and sound quality. Your home-theater experience will no longer suffer from the loss of video detail or audio hisses and pops that can result from "dirty power" that's delivered to your A/V components. This system will also monitor your components' power intake to protect them from unsafe power voltages.

## Perfect For

Those who want to protect and ensure the longevity of their home-theater equipment while getting the best video and sound quality.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Improves picture and sound quality from A/V components through linear AC noise filtration
- AVM surge protection defends equipment against overvoltage and undervoltage and resets when power returns to a safe voltage level
- Three isolated, filtered outlet banks improve picture and sound quality
- Signal line protection for high-definition satellite or cable, LAN, DSL, and phone connections
- Digital voltmeter monitors incoming voltage to detect fluctuations
- A USB charger, gaming outlet, and gaming LAN port allow portable devices to be conveniently connected to and disconnected from the system

## Coolest Feature

Panamax's **AVM circuitry** protects equipment against over/under voltages by disconnecting the power and reconnecting it when safe power returns.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

# HDTVs 5 Must-Have Accessories

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer-electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories. Sure, these accessories have multichannel audio, gold-plated connectors, nitrogen-injected insulation, and fully articulating mounting arms, but they can't compete visually with their big-screen flat-panel HDTV counterparts. Despite outward appearances, however, there are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. FG

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

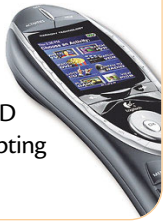
**1 Wall mounts let you display your HDTV to its greatest advantage.** To help you see your TV from the best possible viewing angle, look into a swivel mount, which lets you adjust the vertical and horizontal positions. A wall-mounted HDTV also clears a bit of floor space and keeps your living room or home theater neat and clutter-free. Before hanging the wall mount and installing the television, make sure your theater recliners and couches are positioned where you'll be happy with them for a while so you don't have to drill new holes in the walls every time you want to rearrange the furniture.

**2 TV stands are a good option if you'd rather not drill holes in your family room's newly painted walls.** Likewise, if your walls are made of cement or cinderblock, a stand is probably a better option than a wall mount. Today's A/V furniture manufacturers offer gorgeous showroom-style stands in a variety of materials, including warm wood (available in many stains), minimalist brushed steel, and clean-looking glass. You can get a triangular corner model, a high-backed cabinet that includes a mount for flat-panel HDTVs, or a rack with adjustable shelves to accommodate the rest of your A/V gear.

**3 HDMI cables eliminate the need for multiple cables.** HDMI cables are all-in-one cords that carry uncompressed digital audio/video signals to and from your HDTV and its components, eliminating the need for separate A/V cables. Well-shielded cables cost a bit extra, but they're worth it because they eliminate interference from other components. Another feature you'll appreciate on the more costly cables is the connection—because the connector is well-built, it'll fit snugly in the port, so the cable won't work itself free when pets and small children accidentally jostle the cables.

**4 A surround-sound system brings the aural experience of a theater home.** You've perhaps struggled to keep volume levels steady while watching TV. The intrusion of a loud commercial in the middle of your favorite show is startling; likewise, it's jolting when a quiet part of your favorite movie is suddenly interrupted by a too-loud scene change. A good-quality surround-sound system will feature an equalizer, which will prevent volume extremes in movies and HD broadcasts that are capable of 5.1 or better surround sound.

**5 A universal remote lets you control all of your A/V equipment with one device.** No one—not your mom, dad, grandma, or even the kids—can figure out the remotes when there's a different one for each component in your home-theater system. Consolidate the controls with a programmable universal remote, which lets you control everything with a single device. Many of these remotes let you control as many as 15 devices at once, and some have a color LCD with backlighting, so you can see what you're opting to control in your dimly lit home theater.



# Which LCD TV Is Best For You?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you select is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

| | Size | Dimensions; Weight** | Native resolution | Viewing angle | Inputs | Outputs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen | Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs | A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution | The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly | Inputs let you connect your components to your TV | Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers |
| **Westinghouse W3223** MSRP: $599* SKU 8953153 | 32 inches | 20.125x30.8x 3.75 inches; 24.9 pounds | 720p | N/A | 2 HDMI; 1 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 Composite; 1 PC; 1 RF | 2 audio |
| **Insignia NS-LCD42HD-09** MSRP: $949.99* SKU 8632802 | 42 inches | 27x39.8x 4.5 inches; 40.7 pounds | 1080p | N/A | 3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 S-Video; 2 Composite; 1 PC; 1 RF | 2 audio |
| **Toshiba REGZA 42RV535U** MSRP: $1,399.99* SKU 9034644 | 42 inches | 25.5x39.8x 3.7 inches; 46.3 pounds | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 PC | 2 audio |
| **LG 47LG70** MSRP: $1,999.99* SKU 8843996 | 47 inches | 44.8x30.1x5 inches; 66.3 pounds (with stand) | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 1 USB; 3 Component; 1 Composite; 1 PC | 3 audio |
| **Sony Bravia KDL-46XBR6** MSRP: $2,799.99* SKU 9023193 | 46 inches | 28.5x42.875x 4.125 inches; 52 pounds | 1080p | 178 degrees | 4 HDMI; 2 Component; 3 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC | 2 audio |
| **Hitachi UT47X902** MSRP: $3,199.95* SKU 9018644 See p. 23 | 47 inches | 45.186x31.63 x1.5 inches (with stand); N/A | 1080p | 178 degrees | 1 HDMI; 1 Composite | 1 audio |
| **Mitsubishi LT-52149** MSRP: $3,699* SKU 8961634 See p. 22 | 52 inches | 31.5x47.7x 4.8 inches; 83.8 pounds (with stand) | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 3 Component; 2 S-Video; 2 Composite | 2 audio |
| **Sharp AQUOS LC-65D64U** MSRP: $4,999.99* SKU 8758052 | 65 inches | 60.172x37.17 2x3.875 inches; 110.3 pounds | 1080p | 176 degrees | 3 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 3 Composite; 1 PC | N/A |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. **unless specified, this is without stand

# Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

| | Size | Dimensions; Weight** | Native resolution | Viewing angle | Inputs | Outputs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen | Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs | A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution | The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly | Inputs let you connect your components to your TV | Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers |
| **Panasonic TH-42PX80U** MSRP: $1,199.95* SKU 8722448 | 42 inches | 26.7x40.2x 3.7 inches; 56.7 pounds | 720p | N/A | 3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 S-Video | 2 audio |
| **Samsung PN42A450** MSRP: $1,199.99* SKU 8749376 | 42 inches | 26.3x41.5x 3.8 inches; 59.1 pounds | 720p | 175 degrees | 3 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 PC | N/A |
| **Insignia NS-PDP50** MSRP: $1,299.99* SKU 8454996 | 50 inches | 32x51.4x 4.2 inches; 95 pounds | 720p | N/A | 2 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC | 1 audio |
| **LG 50PG60** MSRP: $2,499.98* SKU 8962045 | 50 inches | 31.2x48.7x 3.1 inches; 87.5 pounds | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC | 3 audio |
| **Hitachi Ultravision P50S602** MSRP: $2,699* SKU 8911699 | 50 inches | 31.625x 48.188x4.125 inches; N/A | 1080p | N/A | 3 HMDI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF | 1 audio |
| **Samsung PN63A760** MSRP: $5,299.99* SKU 8960207 | 63 inches | 37x60.38x 11.5 inches; 185.2 pounds | 1080p | 175 degrees | 4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 Composite; 1 S-Video | 1 audio |
| **Panasonic TH-65PZ850U** MSRP: $6,999.95* SKU 8939697 | 65 inches | 39.1x63x4.3 inches; 160.9 pounds | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 S-Video; 1 PC | 2 audio |
| **Pioneer PRO-141FD** MSRP: $7,000* SKU 8982979 | 60 inches | 34.5x57.688x 2.531 inches; 110 pounds | 1080p | N/A | 4 HDMI; 1 Component; 1 Composite; 1 PC | N/A |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. **unless specified, this is without stand

# Optical vs. Digital Zoom

## See The Difference

The zoom lens is a wonderful tool. You can zoom out to capture a wide-angle landscape or zoom in and use the camera's telephoto capabilities to bring a distant subject even closer. When shopping for a point-and-shoot camera (as opposed to a D-SLR), you'll notice that each camera features an optical zoom and a digital zoom. Before you get too enthusiastic about having the extra telephoto capabilities of a digital zoom, it's important to understand the difference between optical and digital zoom and how they affect image quality.

We will imagine that we're taking pictures with a 5MP camera that is set to capture images at the highest quality level.

An optical zoom uses the camera's lens (optics) to magnify the view. When using only the optical zoom, the camera will capture an image file containing 5MP of image information. Because only the camera's lens is used to capture the full amount of megapixels, your image will be sharper and smoother than when using a digital zoom.

A digital zoom, which you can usually turn on or off in the camera's setup menu, engages when you've zoomed in as far as you can with the optical zoom. When looking at the camera's LCD or through the viewfinder, it appears that the camera is zooming in even more, but in reality, the camera has simply enlarged part of the image and cropped the rest. By cropping the image, the camera has discarded some of the image's pixels, leaving you with an image that contains far fewer pixels than one shot with an optical zoom. For example, using our previous 5MP camera, we take a picture that engages digital zoom. The camera crops out 2MP of image data so the image file now contains only 3MP of image data. Because we're using a 5MP camera, however, the camera must produce an image with 5MP of data. In order to do this, the camera interpolates (invents) the missing pixels and adds them to the image file. The resulting image is almost always softer than the original, and individual pixels may be visible when the picture is enlarged.

So, when you're shopping for a digital camera, ignore the digital zoom specifications. And, for the best image quality and ability to make larger prints, use only the optical zoom when shooting. FG

BY THEANO NIKITAS

# One Size Does Not Fit All

## Shop For The Perfect Camera

Whether you're shopping for yourself or someone else, finding the perfect digital camera is no easy task. There are so many questions to address: Do you want a point-and-shoot or a D-SLR? How many megapixels do you need? What zoom specifications are you looking for? To help ease the process, we've compiled a list of things to consider before you shop.

### Budget

First things first: One of the easiest ways to narrow your list of choices for a digital camera is to set a budget and stick to it. Keep in mind that you may want to purchase a few extras, such as a case or memory card, as well, so plan accordingly.

### Camera Type

After you've settled on a budget, you'll also want to consider which type of camera you're looking for. There are ultra-compact and medium-sized point-and-shoot models, prosumer cameras, and D-SLRs. Prices and features will vary with each type. Compact and midsized point-and-shoot cameras will be some of the most portable and pocketable. Prosumer models will provide additional manual settings and controls over point-and-shoot models, though they'll also be slightly larger and heavier. The largest and often heaviest cameras of the bunch, D-SLRs, offer the most features and flexibility, with the ability to change lenses for even greater control.

### Resolution

Although most cameras today offer more than enough megapixels for the average user's needs, it's still important to consider the resolution capabilities of the camera. In addition, if you have no desire to print poster-sized prints, then there's no reason to go crazy and pay for megapixels you'll never use. In fact, if you only want small prints (say 4x6 prints), a 3MP or 4MP camera should suffice, though 6 to 8MP will give you greater ability to crop and print 8x10 pictures.

### Zoom

A camera's zoom capabilities will vary from one camera to the next. Pay attention to optical, not digital, zoom when choosing a point-and-shoot or prosumer camera. D-SLRs can have essentially unlimited zoom potential—you simply attach a different lens.

### Connections

Some cameras have built-in Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth connectivity so you can upload photos and print them wirelessly. Docks are also available for some cameras that let you charge the camera and upload pictures at the same time. Some cameras can also connect to a TV, so you can show your pictures off to friends and family on a larger screen.

### Other Features

Features will vary greatly from one camera to the next. Some of the latest features include face detection, smile detection, and image stabilization. Face and smile detection are relatively straightforward. Image stabilization helps the camera take crisp pictures, even if your hand is slightly shaky while pressing the shutter button.

### Preparation Is Key

By thinking through some of the options before you shop, you'll help narrow the field of cameras from which to choose and eliminate some of the confusion while shopping. FG

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

# Narrow The Field

## Shop For The Perfect Digital Camcorder

For capturing memories and special events, nothing is better than a digital camcorder. They're compact, convenient, and come in a wide variety of types, formats, and price ranges, ensuring there's a camcorder out there for everyone.

### Memories On A Budget

Perhaps you decide at the last minute to pick up a digital camcorder for a vacation or just want a solid camera at a low price point; whatever the case, there are plenty of quality camcorders available for very little money.

Camcorders that use flash memory run the gamut in price from high to low, but the lower-end models can be as little as $100. They're extremely small and light—some as small as a digital camera—and are designed to go everywhere with you. In terms of storage, you're only limited by the size of your memory card.

Generally, miniDV camcorders, which record onto small tapes, are very inexpensive, yet they offer superior image quality compared to some other types of digital camcorders. Furthermore, if you want a camcorder that's easy to export to a PC so you can edit and burn DVDs of your home movies, miniDV camcorders are ideal because the format is widely supported by video-editing software.

### Recording Formats Galore

In addition to flash storage and miniDV tapes, hard drive-based camcorders and DVD models are quite popular. Camcorders that record directly onto an internal hard drive are compact yet offer massive amounts of storage capacity, while DVD camcorders record onto 3-inch DVDs that can be played back in virtually any standard DVD player.

Different formats mean different ways of connecting to a computer for video capture and editing; various interfaces used include FireWire, USB 2.0, and HDMI. Before you buy, make sure your camcorder's connection is compatible with your computer.

### Cool Options

Although there are many options to sweeten individual camcorders' appeal—such as the ability to take still images along with video capabilities, optical zoom, image stabilization, a bevy of different types of recording media, special shooting modes, and more—one possibility stands out above them all. HD camcorders are available in many different types of recording formats, meaning that your home movies will be more crisp and clear than ever before with incredibly high resolution. FG

BY SETH COLANER

### Hybrids

Having such diverse options regarding what type of recording format you want in a camcorder is great, but what if you, like many consumers, want more than one kind? Hybrids, which are camcorders that can record onto multiple types of media, solve that problem. For example, you could have a camcorder that records onto DVDs but also has a memory slot for flash storage. In addition to giving you some flexibility in choosing what format to shoot in, having more than one option gives you a backup in case you run out of space on your primary media. ●

# Frame Your Photo Collection

## Shop For The Perfect Digital Photo Frame

Photos are meant to be shared, so don't limit yourself to one photo per frame. Instead, purchase a digital photo frame that can display a slideshow of a recent special event or family vacation. Digital photo frames also make it easy to switch from showing a slideshow with multiple photos to showing one particularly special photo. There are lots of different digital photo frames out there, so you will need to know which features will help you display the best image.

Like with any big-ticket purchase, you'll first want to consider your budget. Digital frames can range from less than $100 to more than $250 depending on the quality of the LCD, the size, and the added features. Some of the more expensive frames can also play videos and music in addition to your photos.

A digital photo frame with a high screen resolution (the amount of pixels displayed vertically by horizontally) will provide a clear, detailed image along with rich, vibrant colors. To ensure the best picture, look for something with a resolution of at least 800 x 600. While high resolutions make for a great image in large frames, lower resolutions are more affordable and can also have great color and clarity in smaller frames.

If you want to display slideshows that include a large number of photos, find a frame with plenty of internal memory. But if you only want to display a few of your favorite snapshots, save your money and purchase a photo frame with a smaller amount of internal memory that lets you add memory with flash cards. Many photo frames support flash cards such as SD, miniSD, CF, MMC, and Memory Stick. Additionally, some frames let you upload photos via your wireless home network so you can easily send photos from your computer to your frame. Your photo frame should also support a wide array of image formats, including TIF, GIF, JPEG, and bitmap.

While it's important to consider technical specifications, the most important thing is that the frame looks good to you. Before you purchase one, be sure to compare frames side by side at your local CE retailer to determine which frame best meets your needs. FG

BY TESSA BRENEMAN

## Accessorize Your Digital Photo Frame

Finding accessories for your digital photo frame is a great way to express your personality. Some digital photo frames include several faceplates, so you can swap colors. Or you may be able to purchase additional faceplates to fit your home décor.

If you want to be able to load your photos with no need for wires, look for a model with wireless capabilities. You can also add wireless functionality to a digital photo frame by using a wireless adapter, which can be purchased separately. ●

# Spanning The Spectrum

## Focal Lengths Explained

If you've shopped for a D-SLR camera, you've probably noticed that many are available in a kit that includes a camera body and lens. Kit lenses typically have a focal length range of 18 to 55mm. Focal length describes a lens' zoom capabilities. There are many other lenses available, each of which has a different purpose. For example, telephoto lenses let you zoom in to get a closer look, whereas wide-angle lenses let you see more of your surroundings. By understanding the difference in focal lengths among lenses, you'll have a better knowledge of which type of lens best suits your needs. If you're in the market for your first D-SLR, you may find that using a lens other than the kit lens will best suit your needs. As a result, you may decide to forgo the kit lens and save money by buying just the camera body and then put the money you saved toward a specialized lens.

### Basic Lens Types

Typically, lenses are grouped into categories based on their focal length. A wide-angle lens gives you a broad field of view. Wide-angle lenses usually have a focal length of 30mm or less. Standard lenses have focal lengths ranging from about 30 to 50mm. This type of lens most closely matches the perspective of the human eye. Telephoto lenses magnify objects and typically have focal lengths more than 50mm. Lenses with a focal length greater than 200mm are called super-telephotos. Close-up or macro lenses let you focus on something that is a short distance from the camera. Macro lenses can range in focal length.

### Choose Your Zoom

In general, the kit lens that accompanies a D-SLR is a good starter lens. As your photographic needs grow, it's worth considering specialized lenses. Because focal length determines your range of view, it will play a big part in helping you decide which type of lens will best suit your photographic needs. FG

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Here's a look at the same picture using different focal lengths. Notice how the picnic table is hardly noticeable in the first shot but becomes very obvious when you zoom in.

## Shooting Range

A standard lens is perfect if you want a range of wide-angle to slightly telephoto views.

With a macro lens, you can take close-up shots of small objects, such as flower petals.

If you're into nature photography, you may want a telephoto zoom lens. With this lens, you'll be able to capture your son's facial expression as he shoots a goal, even if you're on the other end of the soccer field. ●

# Digital Camcorders

## 5 Must-Have Accessories

Prices for digital camcorders continue to fall as picture quality increases, which is especially good news for first-time camcorder buyers. As a first-time buyer, you may not have a good idea of what else to include in your camcorder budget. Here are a few accessories we consider must-haves. FG

BY THEANO NIKITAS

### 1

**A bag protects your camcorder from potential hard knocks.** Whether you have tons of DV gear or only the minimum, a camera bag or case is probably one of the most important investments you'll make. Obviously, a well-padded bag (or a hard case if you need to check your equipment when flying, for example) will protect your camera from knocks and short drops. At the same time, a camera bag can serve as a home for your DV gear; stow all your equipment and accessories in the bag, and you won't have to turn the house upside down to find that cable or extra DV tape.

### 2

**UV filters are an inexpensive way to keep your lens scratch-free.** If your camcorder has a threaded lens, you might want to invest in a UV (ultraviolet) filter. Some people use a UV filter to protect the lens from scratches, as well as dirt, sand, and other outdoor photo hazards, because it's much less expensive to replace a filter than a lens or camera. And, because the filter cuts down on UV light, you'll get clearer and more-detailed footage when you're shooting in high-UV conditions, such as in the mountains, so those great landscape shots will look even more impressive.

### 3

**A tripod holds your camcorder steady, so guests don't get sick when they watch your vacation video.** You may have smooth moves on the dance floor, but can any of us really say that we can hold a camcorder as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. That's where a tripod comes in. A tripod that's sturdy enough to hold the weight of the camcorder (check the specs) and equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head (the head is the part the camera is attached to) will allow you to smoothly pan the action as your daughter runs down the basketball court to score her winning shot or to follow the path of a bird from the tree up to the sky as it disappears from view. And, if you want a static, steady shot, just put the camera on the tripod, press record, and let it run—just make sure to place the camera and tripod out of harm's way, especially at parties and group events.

### 4

**Experiment with different lens adapters, such as wide-angle or telephoto.** Digital camcorders usually have a much broader zoom range than digital still cameras, but if the zoom range isn't broad enough and your camcorder accepts accessory lenses, pick up a wide-angle or telephoto adapter lens. A wide-angle lens is great for tight spots, especially when you're indoors at a party where you may be too close to your subjects to get the full view you'd like. A telephoto lens, of course, allows you to get closer to subjects that are far away, such as performers in a ring at the circus or in rugged terrain when you're searching out wildlife.

### 5

**Spare batteries ensure that you'll be able to continue shooting your son's baseball game, even when it goes into extra innings.** There are times when you'll want to shoot video in the best quality for a fairly continuous amount of time, which can drain the battery. Recharging the battery takes time that you may not have. It's a good idea to have a fully charged back-up battery in your case so you don't miss any of the action—whether it's the grand finale of your daughter's first piano recital; the final, heart-stopping quarter of your son's football game; or the end of your holiday party.

# Essential THINGS TO KNOW

## Camera Accessories

### Lenses

**Q Should I buy a kit lens with my D-SLR?**

A It depends on your intended uses for the camera. Kit lenses are often good basic starting lenses. By buying the lens with the camera, you're likely to save some money over purchasing the components separately.

**Q What is a wide-angle lens?**

A A wide-angle lens provides a broad field of view. Typical focal lengths for wide-angle lenses are 30mm or shorter.

**Q What are standard lenses?**

A Focal lengths for standard lenses typically range from about 30 to 50mm. Standard lenses closely mimic the perspective of the human eye.

**Q What are telephoto lenses?**

A If you're looking for a way to zoom in close to your subject, you may want a telephoto lens. Focal lengths for these lenses typically reach 50mm and longer.

### Tripods

**Q What are the benefits of using a tripod?**

A With a still-standing support, you will be able to capture sharper images, include yourself in photographs, and more easily snap successful shots in adverse lighting.

**Q What if I don't want to carry a large tripod all the time?**

A You can purchase a portable tripod, which is usually no higher than 10 inches. Some portable tripods have bendable legs that let you attach them to difficult surfaces.

**Q How do I choose a tripod?**

A A taller tripod may be necessary for portraits, whereas a shorter tripod will be useful to capture ground-level shots. Also be sure your tripod is made of sturdy material.

**Q Can I use a tripod with my point-and-shoot camera?**

A The bottom of your camera should have a threaded hole that corresponds to the screw mount found on most tripod heads, allowing you to attach even your point-and-shoot.

## Cleaning & Care

**Q Why should I buy special cleaning supplies for my camera?**

A If you rub the lens with a shirttail or use an unsuitable cleaning spray, you may inadvertently scratch the lens or damage its antiglare coating.

**Q Which camera cleaning products should I buy?**

A Use the cleaning supplies your camera's manufacturer recommends, if any. Otherwise, stick to products that say "safe for coated lenses" or something similar.

**Q What about touchups in the field?**

A Most manufacturers agree that it's safe to use a lens pen, which has a soft brush on one end and a cleaning tip on the other. Some specially designed wipes are OK, too.

**Q Are all cleaning sprays the same?**

A No. They have different formulations, just as lenses from various manufacturers have different coatings. Follow your camera manufacturer's advice regarding active ingredients to use or avoid.

**Q Why should I clean my camera anyway? I keep the lens cap on.**

A It doesn't take the lens long to accumulate dust, smudges, and fingerprints, which can make your photos blurry and/or discolored.

## Bags & Wallets

**Q Why should I buy a camera bag?**

A A camera bag makes it easy to carry your camera around with you, and it can house all of your camera's accessories. It also protects the camera from dings and drops.

**Q How big should my camera bag be?**

A Your camera bag should comfortably fit your camera and any accessories you'll need, such as memory cards, extra batteries, a portable tripod, and extra lenses.

**Q Do I need a bag for my camcorder?**

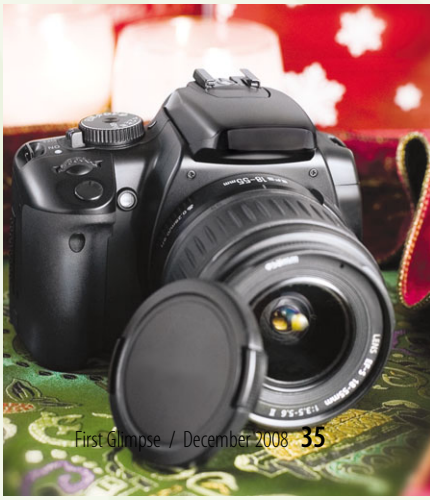
A Yes. Like a camera bag, a camcorder bag will let you easily tote accessories along with you while protecting your investment.

**Q Will my camera be safe at the beach or pool?**

A If you're going to be near water, you can purchase a waterproof camera case or skin designed to guard your camera from splashes. Many waterproof cases and skins will also let you take underwater pictures.

**Q What types of camera bags are available?**

A You can purchase a basic bag designed to protect your camera from the elements or a backpack-style bag that can accompany you on hiking and biking trips.



OLYMPUS

# Digital Camera
# Tough Enough For Everyday Life

Olympus
Stylus 850 SW

MSRP: $299.99
SKU: 8696128 (orange)

www.olympusamerica.com

## Quick Overview

Whether you take this camera to the beach, to the slopes, or just out on the town, its all-weather design will keep it safe from harm. Packed into its durable exterior are powerful image-enhancing features, including face detection and image stabilization, to ensure that every shot comes out looking great.

## Perfect For

The Stylus 850 SW is designed for active people who want a tough camera that can keep up with their on-the-go lifestyles. Incredibly durable, sleek, and stylish, the Stylus 850 SW is a must-have vacation and party accessory.

## Outstanding Benefits

- **Shockproof (5 feet)**—rugged metal body and revolutionary shock-absorbing construction
- **Waterproof (10 feet)**—waterproof seals and gaskets allow you to take underwater movies and pictures
- **Freezeproof (14°F)**—winterized to perform at sub-freezing temperatures
- **8MP CCD**—take vibrant, high-resolution photos
- **3x optical/5x digital zoom**—take close-up shots from a distance
- **2.5-inch HyperCrystal™ LCD**—anti-glare technology and wide viewing angle

## Coolest Feature

**Waterproof (10 feet).** Don't just take it to the pool, take it *in* the pool. Innovative waterproof seals and gaskets allow you to take amazing underwater pictures and movies in the pool or even in the ocean.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FUJIFILM

# Digital Camera
# Create Your Own HD Digital Photo Theater

## Fujifilm FinePix S2000HD

MSRP: $279.99

SKU: 8942479

www.fujifilmusa.com/digitalcameras

## Quick Overview

The FinePix S2000HD has 10 megapixels, a 15x wide-angle zoom, dual IS, face detection, and 13.5fps high-speed continuous shooting. Capture HD images in true 16:9 widescreen format and play them back on your home-theater system. The FinePix S2000HD is compact, powerful, and full-featured at a great price.

## Perfect For

The S2000HD is perfect for families and people who travel or love photography and want a high-speed camera that gets them up close to the action and gives them the ability to share it all on an HDTV without distortion.

## Outstanding Benefits

- 10-megapixel power for high-resolution images
- 15x wide-angle optical zoom with one-touch zoom
- Extra-large, high-resolution 2.7-inch LCD
- Dual image stabilization prevents blurry images
- Face detection with auto red eye correction finds up to 10 faces
- High-speed continuous shooting captures up to 13.5fps for 33 frames
- HDTV-compatible with true 16:9 widescreen ratio and 1080i (still) and 720i (movie) output

## Coolest Feature

**Zoom bracketing** captures three pictures with one touch of the shutter button. One at the standard zoom setting and then one each with 1.4x and 2x multipliers. And with face detection, the subject is automatically centered in the frame.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

CASIO

# Digital SLR
# Don't Miss Any Of The Action

## Casio Exilim EX-FH20

MSRP: $599.99
SKU: 9051063

www.casio.com

## Quick Overview

The Casio EX-FH20 offers professional grade features for the casual photographer. 40 high resolution 7-megapixel images in one second provides 35 more images to select from than a typical D-SLR. You can also get close to the action with 20X optical zoom starting at 26mm wide-angle.

## Perfect For

The person who is looking to have more than a point and shoot digital camera but desires both video and still images. The consumer who needs to capture fast moving subject matter.

## Outstanding Benefits

- At 40fps you will be sure to capture the picture at the exact moment you need
- 1,000fps video capture enables you to see all the action, even things that cannot be seen by the naked eye
- Shoot high definition 720p video and switch to high speed slow motion video
- Get close to the action with the 20X optical zoom starting at 26mm wide-angle

## Coolest Feature

With the push of a button you can shoot HD 720p video and switch to high speed slow motion video. You can switch back and forth from 30-210fps, 420fps, and 1,000fps. At 1,000fps you can capture movement that you can not see with the naked eye.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

# Memory Card
# World's First Wireless SD Memory Card

## Eye-Fi Share

MSRP: $99.99
SKU: 8853886

www.eye.fi

## Quick Overview

The Eye-Fi Share is a wireless memory card that automatically uploads photos from your camera to your computer or favorite photo-sharing Web site—no cord or cable is needed. Simply turn on your camera when you get home, and your photos will wirelessly upload through your Wi-Fi network. Eye-Fi works with any digital camera with an SD memory card slot—just swap your current SD card with the Eye-Fi Share to transform your camera into a "wireless" device.

## Perfect For

Camera users who never get around to uploading and sharing their photos with friends and family or find it a major hassle to do so.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Wirelessly uploads photos to your computer or favorite photo-sharing Web site
- Automatically uploads to one of 25 online photo-sharing sites such as Shutterfly, Facebook, or Flickr
- Works with any digital camera that has an SD memory card slot
- PC and Mac compatible
- A 2GB card capacity means that you can store hundreds of images (exact number of photos will depend on your camera's megapixels)
- Has a range of 90-plus feet outdoors and 45-plus feet indoors
- Intelligently resizes images if required by photo-sharing Web sites

## Coolest Feature

The Eye-Fi Share works like magic to automatically upload your photos directly to your computer or photo-sharing accounts.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Camera Bag
# Comfortable, Durable & Stylish Camera Protection

## Lowepro SlingShot

MSRP: 100 AW $83.99
SKU: 80034024776

MSRP: 200 AW $104.99
SKU: 8054776

www.lowepro.com

## Quick Overview

The SlingShot 100 AW and 200 AW use a unique design to go from "carry mode" to "ready mode" in only seconds. Carried comfortably on your back, these smart bags easily rotate to your front to allow quick access to camera gear so you won't miss perfect shots. This feature-rich camera bag also includes a built-in memory card pouch, micro fiber LCD cloth, and two organizer pockets. The SlingShot 100 AW and 200AW will surprise even the most demanding photographers.

## Perfect For

On-the-go photographers who need their camera equipment protected and quickly accessible.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Ergonomic sling strap evenly distributes your bag content's weight
- Full-access lid allows fast and easy equipment loading and unloading
- Two pocket organizers and built-in memory card pouch
- Built-in microfiber cloth helps protect your camera's LCD from nicks and scratches
- All Weather Cover™ protects against elements such as rain, dust, and sand
- Mesh-covered back pad and sling strap provide breathable comfort
- Exterior material: water-resistant microfiber, ripstop nylon, and 600D TXP
- 100 AW interior dimensions are 9.8x7.5x5.1 inches (HxWxD); 200 AW interior dimensions are 11.8x8.7x 5.9 inches (HxWxD)

## Coolest Feature

The innovative **sling strap design** allows you to easily swing the bag from your back to your front for quick and easy access to your photography equipment.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), and we also explain what these features mean.

| | Resolution; Optical zoom | Shutter speed | Memory card | LCD size | Battery life | ISO | Movie mode |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject | A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur | Removable card that stores your photos in your camera | The LCD is the display on the back of the camera | Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge | A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings | Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera |
| **Casio Exilim EX-Z80** MSRP: $159.99* SKU 8719005 | 8.1MP; 3X | 1/2 to 1,200 second | SDHC/SD/MMC/MMC plus | 2.6 inches | 210 shots | Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 | Yes |
| **Olympus FE-370** MSRP: $199.99* SKU 8960074 See p. 8 | 8MP; 5X | 1/2 to 1,200 second | xD-Picture Card | 2.7 inches | 200 shots | Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800 1600, 3200 | Yes |
| **Canon SD880 IS** MSRP: $299.99* SKU 8968325 | 10MP; 4X | 15 to 1/1,600 second | SD/SDHC/MMC/MMC Plus Card/HC MMC Plus | 3 inches | 310 shots | Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 | Yes |
| **FujiFilm S2000HD** MSRP: $299.99* SKU 8942479 See p. 37 | 10MP; 15X | 1/4 to 1/1,000 second | SD/SDHC | 2.7 inches | 300 shots (alkaline batteries) | Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400 | Yes |
| **Olympus Stylus 850 SW** MSRP: $299.99* SKU 8696128 See p. 36 | 8MP; 3X | 1/2 to 1/1,000 second | xD-Picture Card/microSD | 2.5 inches | 190 shots | Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 | Yes |
| **Nikon Coolpix S60** MSRP: $349.95* SKU 8975157 | 10MP; 5X | N/A | SD/SDHC | 3.5 inches | 140 shots | Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200 | Yes |
| **Nikon Coolpix P80** MSRP: $399.95* SKU 8791097 | 10.1MP; 18X | 8 to 1/2,000 second | SD/SDHC | 2.7 inches | 250 shots | Auto; 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400 | Yes |
| **Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T700** MSRP: $399.99* SKU 8942601 | 10.1MP; 4X | 1/4 to 1/1,000 second | Memory Stick/Memory Stick PRO Duo | 3.5 inches | N/A | Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200 | Yes |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

| | Resolution | LCD size | ISO range | Kit lens | Burst speed | Shutter speed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image | Diagonal measure of display on back of camera | A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations | Standard lens bundled with the camera body | Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode | The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action |
| **Casio Exilim EX-FH20** MSRP: $599.99* SKU 9051063 See p. 38 | 9.1MP | 3 inches | 100 to 1600 | N/A (fixed lens equivalent to 26-520mm f/2.8-4.5) | 5fps up to 10 images | 1 to 1/2,000 seconds |
| **Sony Alpha DSLR-A300K** MSRP: $599.99* SKU 8942512 | 10.2MP | 2.7 inches | 100 to 3200 | DT 18-70mm f/3.5-5.6 | 3fps | 30 to 1/4,000 seconds |
| **Olympus Evolt E-520** MSRP: $699.99* SKU 8928958 | 10MP | 2.7 inches | 100 to 1600 | 14-42mm f/3.5-5.6 Zuiko lens | 2.5fps to card capacity | 60 to 1/4,000 seconds |
| **Canon EOS Rebel XSi** MSRP: $799.99* SKU 8794691 | 12.2MP | 3 inches | 100 to 1600 | EF-S 18-55mm f/3.6-5.6 IS | 3.5fps up to 53 shots | 30 to 1/4,000 seconds |
| **Nikon D90** MSRP: $1,299.95* SKU 8975184 | 12.9MP | 3 inches | 200 to 3200 | 18-105mm f/3.5-5.6 DX Nikkor lens | 4.5fps | 30 to 1/4,000 seconds |
| **Panasonic Lumix DMC-L10K** MSRP: $1,299.99* SKU 8815464 | 10.1MP | 2.5 inches | 100 to 1600 | LEICA D VARIO-ELMAR 14-50mm f/3.8-5.6 | 3fps to card capacity | 60 to 1/4,000 seconds |
| **Olympus E-3** MSRP: $1,699* SKU 8682776 | 10.1MP | 2.5 inches | 100 to 3200 | N/A (body only) | 5fps to card capacity | 60 to 1/8,000 seconds |
| **Nikon D700** MSRP: $2,999.99* SKU 8928985 | 12.1MP | 3 inches | 200 to 6400 | N/A (body only) | 5fps | 30 to 1/8,000 seconds |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

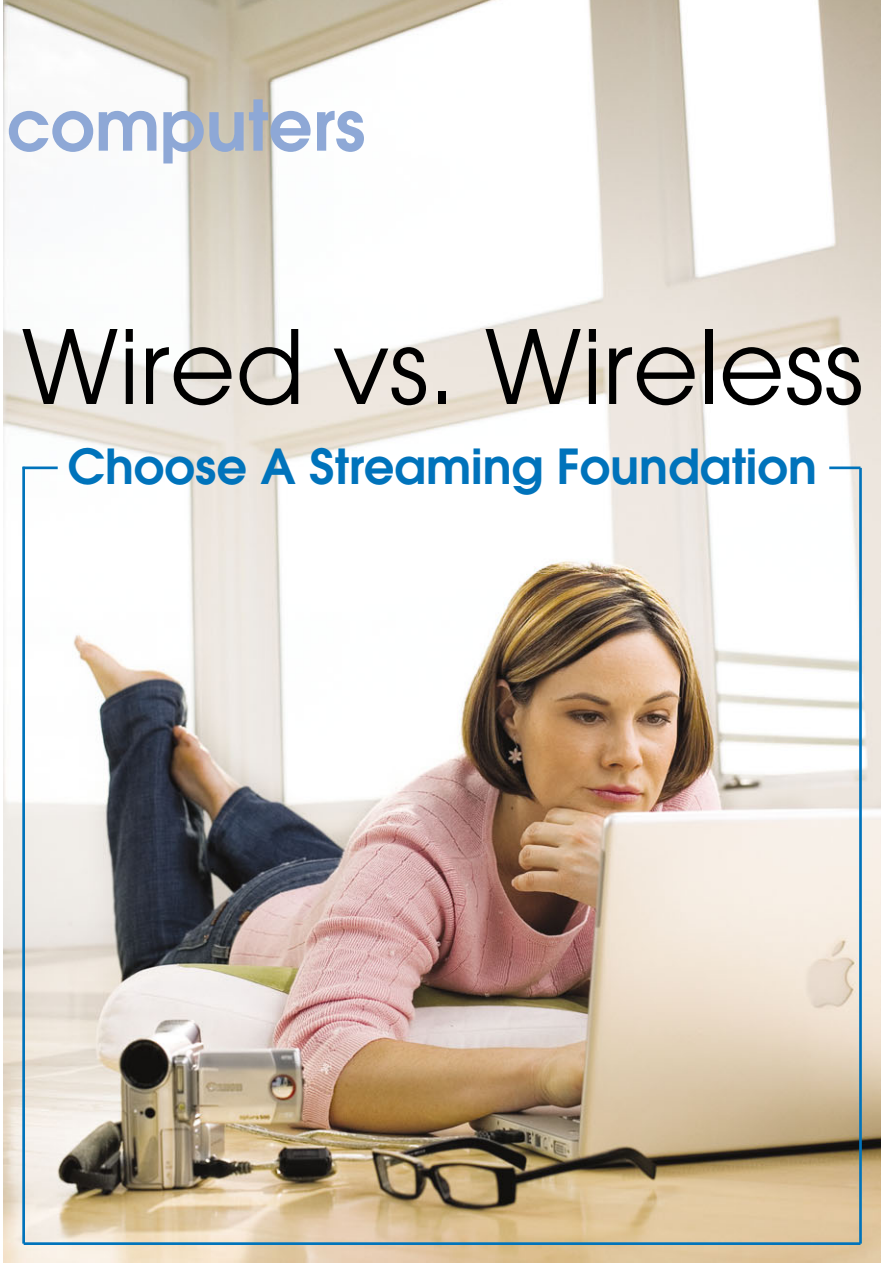
Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), you can determine which format and product best fit your style.

| | | LCD size | Optical zoom; Digital zoom | Recording speeds | Memory card | Digital still resolution | Lines of resolution |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | What It Means | Diagonal length of viewing screen | Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better | The speeds a particular camcorder can utilize during recording | Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted) | The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images | Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the number, the greater the detail |
| MiniDV | **Panasonic PV-GS90** MSRP: $279.95* SKU 8671528 | 2.7 inches | 42X; 2,000X | SP/LP | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| DVD | **Panasonic VDR-D50** MSRP: $349.95* SKU 8673269 | 2.7 inches | 42X; 2,000X | XP/SP/LP | SD/SDHC | 0.3MP | 500 |
| Flash Drive | **Samsung SC-MX20** MSRP: $299* SKU 8907365 | 2.7 inches | 34X; 1,200X | N/A | SD/SDHC | N/A | N/A |
| Flash Drive | **Canon FS100** MSRP: $399* SKU 8732598 | 2.7 inches | 37X; 2,000X | XP/SP/LP | SD/SDHC | 0.8MP | N/A |
| High Definition – Hard Drive | **Canon VIXIA HG20** MSRP: $949* SKU 8916925 | 2.7 inches | 12X; 200X | LP/SP/XP+/ FXP/MXP | SD/SDHC | 2.76MP | N/A |
| High Definition – Hard Drive | **JVC GZ-HD30US** MSRP: $999.99* SKU 8894333 | 2.8 inches | 10X; 200X | MPEG-2: FHD/1440CBR; AVCHD: XP/SP/EP | microSD/ microSDHC | 3.3MP | 1,080 |
| High Definition – Flash Drive | **Sony HDR-CX12** MSRP: $899.99* SKU 8894388 | 2.7 inches | 12X; 150X | FH/HQ/SP/ LP | Memory Stick PRO Duo | 10.2MP | 1,080 |
| High Definition – Flash Drive | **Canon VIXIA HF11** MSRP: $1,199* SKU 8917069 | 2.7 inches | 12X; 200X | LP/SP/XP+/ FXP/MXP | SD/SDHC | 2.76MP | N/A |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Wired vs. Wireless

## Choose A Streaming Foundation



You have video, music, and photo slideshows on a computer, but what you really want is to enjoy them in your home theater. After all, that's where your comfy couch is, not to mention all that HDTV glory.

Unless you want to move your computer into your living room, you're talking about streaming. Put simply, **streaming** means playing music or video on a TV or other device as it continuously downloads from a computer over a network. However, not all networks are created equal for this demanding task.

### Wired

A wired network is your best bet for consistent streaming. A gigabit (1Gbps) Ethernet network will be more than fast enough for even high-definition video. Wired networks are reliable, easier to secure than a wireless network, and potentially inexpensive.

On the downside, an Ethernet network means you'll have to route a high-quality cable from your computer to the receiving device. And unless you tuck the cable into a baseboard, under the rug, or through a conduit or raceway, you're just asking for someone to trip over it.

As an alternative, you could take advantage of the wiring already built into your home. A power line network lets you send high-speed audio, video, and data through the same wires that carry electricity to all of your appliances. On the other hand, non-Windows device support may be spotty, and devices such as air conditioners and vacuums may cause interference.

### Wireless

A wireless network is easy to set up, as you don't have to route cables through walls, floors, or ceilings. And adding another wireless device is as easy as installing an adapter.

Current 802.11g or draft 802.11n wireless equipment is fast enough to stream audio and some types of video. However, the primary problem is that wireless performance isn't as consistent as streaming demands. Common household devices, such as microwaves and baby monitors, can slow down data traffic on wireless networks (although draft 802.11n devices are a little better at resisting such interference).

Many wireless routers are backward-compatible with earlier technologies. However, if someone connects a slow 11Mbps 802.11b device to the network, the router may drop the speed of the entire network to accommodate the legacy device.

Finally, any wireless network needs to be securely encrypted to protect your personal data from hackers, and that takes processing power on both the sending and receiving ends. If you use strong encryption, your streaming video might stutter. If you use weaker encryption to speed things up or accommodate a streaming appliance's capabilities, your network won't be as tough to hack.

The verdict for wireless at this stage: It's fine for audio but less so for video. You can get decent results with low-resolution video clips and even some nicer-looking stuff when conditions are right. Once you step up to higher-quality content, however, the frustrations may outweigh your enjoyment. FG

BY MARTY SEMS

# Send In The Geeks!

## Say Goodbye To Slow Computers

### Geek Squad PC Optimization, Explained

Whether your computer is fresh out of the box or has been used for a long time, there's a good chance it isn't running at peak performance. In order to protect your privacy and avoid PC slowdowns, everything from needless software to malware, such as viruses and spyware, needs to be cleaned out on a regular basis. However, tracking these nuisances down and knowing what you should keep vs. what you should delete can quickly become a nightmare.

Enter Geek Squad. Whether you opt for its in-home, in-store, or online service, Geek Squad Agents can optimize your PC so it boots faster, runs better, and suffers from fewer errors and crashes. Here's an overview of the basic PC adjustments Geek Squad can perform and why they are so vital.

### Remove Unnecessary Startup Programs

If programs are flagged to open and run in the background as soon as Windows loads, they lengthen boot times and slow down your system's overall performance. Windows does include tools to help you remove startup items, but there are several caveats. These simple utilities don't necessarily show you everything that loads when your computer starts up, and they don't provide enough information to let you know which programs are necessary and which can safely be deleted. With the assistance of Geek Squad Agents, your PC's needless startup programs will be identified and then safely removed.

### Fight Malware

Nothing drags down performance like malware. Viruses can take over your computer to send unsolicited emails or destroy your PC's data, and spyware monitors your actions, leading to identity theft and other security breaches. One of the most important components to some of Geek Squad's security services is antivirus and antispyware installation and configuration that prevents existing and new malware from infecting your computer.

### Take Out The Trash

As you use your computer, it creates loads of temporary files that eat up hard drive space and serve no lasting purpose. As with startup programs, it's difficult to tell which files are safe to delete and which are needed, so let a Geek Squad Agent take the guesswork out of this tune-up task.

### Keep It Updated

New security holes for Windows and other software crop up regularly, and new antivirus and anti-malware definitions are released nearly every day. It is imperative to keep your OS and anti-malware software up-to-date. Many Geek Squad optimization services can patch your software programs with new updates so that you can keep your data and identity safe with peace of mind. FG

BY TRACY BAKER

### Which Geek Squad Computer Service Is Right For You?

Geek Squad offers a variety of PC packages that include optimization services. Here's a breakdown of some of them:

#### Standard Security & Performance

$229.99 (in-home)
$129.99 (in-store)
**What's included:** Antivirus and antispyware software is installed, and all performance tweaks discussed in this article are performed.

#### Computer Optimization

$129.99 (in-home)
$29.99 (in-store)
**What's included:** Temp file cleaning, startup program removal, and software updates.

#### Standard Gamer's Optimization

$69.99 (in-store only)
**What's included:** Install one program, temp file cleaning, startup program removal, software updates, and optimize requested game settings.

#### Computer Checkup

$99.99 (in-store only)
**What's included:** Troubleshoot problems, startup program removal, software updates, and OS critical updates.

# In The Market For A New Desktop?

## Shop For The Perfect Desktop Computer

Buying a desktop computer is a lot like buying a pair of shoes. One size does not fit all, and you need to determine the activities you'll be using the system for to get the most for your dollar.

The most hardware-demanding form of media is video, and if you plan to do any editing, storage, or viewing, it's best to make the processor a priority. Look for dual core, and if the system is solely for video production, a triple- or quad-core processor is worth its weight in gold. Photo- and video-manipulators will also want at least 3GB of RAM for Microsoft Windows Vista and 2GB for WinXP. Macs are also highly regarded for their media-handling capabilities and ease of use. Even if you're not into photos and video right now, it's a good idea to get spare memory slots for future upgrades.

If you want to watch, burn, or edit Blu-ray Discs, you'll need to consider all of the above as well as a Blu-ray optical drive, current graphics card (Radeon HD 2000/3000/4000 series or GeForce 8000/9000/GTX200 series), Vista as your OS, and a Vista-capable monitor. If you're not ready for Blu-ray, make sure the PC has a DVD±RW/CD-RW drive capable of writing double-layer discs, which lets you burn 8.5GB of data or four hours of standard-definition video to disc.

Gamers should get a system with a stand-alone DirectX 10-capable graphics card. If you're serious about games, consider a PC with multiple PCI-E (Peripheral Component Interconnect Express) x16 slots to support SLI or CrossFire multi-GPU configurations. Also, larger monitors require robust graphics cards to display games at the screen's full resolution. Integrated graphics are sufficient for most common tasks, such as Internet browsing, document creation, and audio and video playback.

To get your PC to work like a DVR, get a TV tuner and Vista Home Premium or Ultimate. Hard drive space is also critical for storing recorded TV, home movies, and music. If those activities appeal to you, get at least a 300GB or 500GB hard drive.

If you fancy yourself a photographer, you can save money with a computer that comes bundled with a photo printer and scanner. Also, look for a PC with a media card reader to make storing photos easy.

Putting just a little forethought into your PC components will ensure you get a PC that fits just right. FG

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

### If You Use A Computer To . . .

. . . browse the Web _____
. . . edit and store photos, music _____
. . . capture and edit home movies _____
. . . record TV shows _____
. . . play games _____

### Get A Computer With . . .

. . . integrated graphics _____
. . . 300GB+ HDD, speakers, printer _____
. . . 500GB+ HDD, multicore CPU, 3GB+ RAM _____
. . . 500GB+ HDD, multicore CPU, TV tuner _____
. . . 3GB+ RAM, discrete graphics card _____

# Computing On The Go

## Shop For The Perfect Laptop

The holiday season is a great time to buy a new laptop. There are many specials and deals to be had; plus, you'll be able to stay connected while traveling to see family. With so many options, styles, colors, and specs from which to choose, narrowing the long list of contenders is no easy task. Consider these key points before you shop.

### Budget

Even though a person could spend as much money as she wanted on a laptop, that's not the goal. By setting a budget in advance, you'll eliminate some models and better focus your search. Be realistic and consider the length of time you intend to keep the notebook; it may be worth spending a little more today to have a notebook that will meet your needs for a longer length of time.

### Purpose

Each person uses his computer for different purposes. Depending on your intended uses, you may want a powerful machine that can do everything, or you may decide that a more portable model is better. Also, consider the software that comes with the machine and how well it suits your needs.

### Specs

It's tough to generalize as to who needs how much RAM, storage capacity, or a certain speed of processor. Even so, it's wise to get at least 2GB of RAM for Windows XP laptops and 3GB for Vista. Compare what's out there in your price range, taking into account the specifications of PCs you're already accustomed to using for similar tasks.

### Size

Although you may think you're paying for the specifications of a laptop, you're also paying for its size. In order to cram the same amount of computing power into a smaller case, ultra-portable models often cost more than mainstream models for sometimes-similar hardware capabilities. If you're not going to be toting the laptop everywhere you go, it may be worth accepting an extra pound or two to save some money.

### Warranty

Many manufacturers and CE retailers offer extended warranties for laptops. If this is something you intend to buy, make sure to ask the sales associate what it does and does not cover so there are no surprises later. FG

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

## Laptop Types

Laptops are classified into types, or categories. Here's a quick look at some of the most popular groupings.

**Desktop replacement.** These laptops pack the power of a larger desktop PC, yet in a more portable form factor.

**Mainstream.** General users who need an all-purpose notebook without a lot of bells and whistles should consider a mainstream model.

**Ultra portable.** If portability is key, look for an ultra-portable model that weighs only a few pounds.

**Netbooks.** As small as a paperback book, netbooks are extremely easy to tote around, although they don't always have the same power as their bigger brothers.

**Tablet PCs.** Take digital notes using a tablet PC's stylus. Convertible tablets look a lot like a traditional laptop with a twistable screen.

# Ditch Those Wires

## Shop For The Perfect Wireless Router

Do you repeatedly see the same number? A numerologist may say that it's a sign, but if the number is 802.11, we know the cause—you're shopping for a wireless router. The letter or letters following 802.11 indicate the types of wireless standards the router supports. To help you pick a model that fits your needs, we'll provide a few key shopping tips.

### The Right Standard

When shopping for a wireless router, it may list support for the 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g, or Draft N standards. The outdated 802.11a standard offered a transfer rate of 54Mbps, but it had a limited range; 802.11b improved the signal range but was limited to a transfer speed of 11Mbps. The 802.11g standard, which offers the speed of 802.11a and the range of 802.11b, is supported by most wireless routers. Draft N is the newest wireless standard, and although the official 802.11n standard still isn't finalized, Draft N offers a speed and range that's greater than the 802.11a/b/g standards. The greater speed of Draft N is ideal if you want to stream video and music over your home network.

When shopping for a wireless router, you may find models that support only one standard, such as 802.11g, or multiple standards, such as 802.11a/b/g/Draft N. Note that Draft N is typically backward-compatible with 802.11b/g devices. If you own a wireless device that requires 802.11a or if you plan on upgrading to 802.11n-based devices in the future, you'll want to invest in a router that supports multiple wireless standards.

### Finding Features

Most Draft N and some 802.11g routers feature two or three antennas that use MIMO (Multiple Input, Multiple Output) technology to increase the signal reception and reliability.

If range is important, such as if you need the wireless signal to reach from one end of the house to the other, look for a wireless router with multiple antennas and MIMO technology.

Wireless routers are available in a wide range of prices. Most models above the $100 price range include extra features, such as VPN (Virtual Private Network) functionality or firewall protection, that helps guard your network. If security is essential, consider a router with built-in tools to protect your home network. FG

BY NATHAN LAKE

## Don't Forget About Your Wired Devices

Although your laptop, mobile phone, and portable gaming system may support wireless connections, some devices, such as a printer or desktop computer, may still require a wired connection to the router. Most wireless routers provide a few wired ports. Make certain the model you're considering offers enough wired ports to meet your needs. ●

# Leave It To The PC Pros

## Can Get It Done

Today's computers can handle your entertainment, financial, shopping, communication, and business needs like never before. But from the moment you power on your new PC, you'll have to fight spyware, viruses, and online predators; troubleshoot and repair error messages; configure new and old hardware and software; and regularly install updates and patches. Aren't computers great?

### Send In The Geeks

Like g-men with pocket protectors, the agents of the Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com/geeksquad) are there to handle all of your PC setup, repair, and installation needs.

**New PC setup and security.** Geek Squad Agents can streamline your system with more than 100 in-depth tweaks, install and configure security software and other software updates, get rid of unnecessary software that comes preloaded on your computer, create a restore CD, and even offer secure online storage.

**Repairs and upgrades.** Geek Squad Agents can also unfreeze locked systems, recover data from crashes, and improve poor performance. Geek Squad's basic service fixes software, removes viruses and spyware, and cleans your PC. You can upgrade to get security and privacy software installed and configured, and you can hire Geek Squad to upgrade your operating system.

**Wireless networking.** If you want to communicate more efficiently among multiple computers, Geek Squad Agents can help you accomplish that, as well as with setting up a PC network in your home; connecting two network-capable devices (such as gaming consoles, desktop and laptop computers, print servers, and more); and even with securing your wireless network.

**Data protection.** If you have data you just can't lose (and we all do), Geek Squad offers both a one-time backup service and an automated backup service. Agents can also clean and remove sensitive files from a hard drive you're planning to sell or discard.

### Who You Gonna Call?

Once you've made the decision to buy a new PC, you aren't on your own to keep it working. Just call your friendly local Geek Squad. FG

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

## Available Services

If it involves your computer, Geek Squad can help. The following is a list of the computer services your local Geek Squad Agents can sort out. And they even make house calls.

- Set up and secure your computer
- Perform repairs and upgrades
- Protect and save your data
- A la carte services

## Price Breakdown

To get your PC in tip-top shape, Geek Squad offers a range of services that are guaranteed to help you get the most out of your computer.

- Standard Security & Performance: $129.99 (in-store); $229.99 (in-home)
- Advanced Security & Performance: $159.99 (in-store)
- Premium Security & Performance: $189.99 (in-store)
- Diagnostic: $69.99 (in-store); $169.99 (in-home); $69.99 (online)
- Diagnostic & Repair (Virus & Spyware Removal): $199.99 (in-store); $299.99 (in-home); $169.99 (online)
- Operating System Install: $129.99 (in-store); $229.99 (in-home)
- Technology Consultation: $99.99 (in-home)
- Standard Wireless Networking: $119.99 (in-home); $79.99 (phone/online)
- Advanced Wireless Networking: $169.99 (in-home); $119 (phone/online)
- Automated Data Backup Setup: $99.99 (in-store); $199.99 (in-home)
- One Time Data Backup (9.4GB): $99.99 (in-store); $199.99 (in-home)
- One Time Data Backup (Unlimited): $159.99 (in-store); $299.99 (in-home)

# Essential THINGS TO KNOW

## Computer Accessories

### Mice

**Q How is a laptop mouse different from a traditional mouse?**

A For storage convenience, a laptop mouse is typically smaller than a mouse designed for a desktop computer.

**Q How do I connect a wireless mouse to my PC?**

A A wireless mouse can communicate via either RF (radio frequency) or Bluetooth technology. Typically, a wireless mouse includes a wireless receiver for your PC.

**Q What's the difference between an optical and laser mouse?**

A Optical mice use an LED to reflect images back into the mouse, while laser mice use a laser. Generally speaking, laser mice are more accurate.

**Q What's the advantage of a mouse with customizable buttons?**

A Configurable mouse buttons enable you to use the mouse to perform specific actions.

### KVMs

**Q What is a KVM (keyboard video mouse)?**

A A KVM lets you share one mouse, keyboard, and monitor among two or more computers.

**Q How does a KVM switch between computers?**

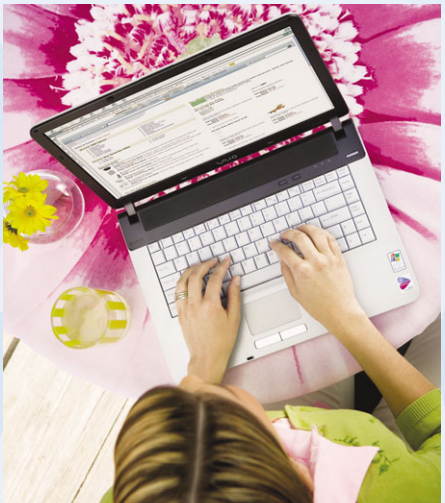
A Some KVMs include a button on the console to switch between systems. Other models may use a hotkey combination or other software method to trigger the switch.

**Q Do KVMs support wireless mice and keyboards?**

A Some models support wireless mice and keyboards, although some KVMs don't fully support those that use one USB receiver for both devices.

**Q How many computers can a KVM support?**

A Although entry-level models support two computers, higher-end models can support eight or more.



## Printers

**Q What's the difference between a regular printer and a photo printer?**

A Most photo printers can handle typical printing jobs, but many models are also optimized to produce the highest quality photos.

**Q Can I print photos on a regular printer?**

A Yes, although photo printers are specifically designed to produce photographs. For example, high-end photo printers have separate ink cartridges for each color.

**Q Can I use a photo printer as a network printer?**

A You can network any printer if it's network-capable, but that's not a common feature on photo printers.

**Q Why are laser cartridges so much more expensive than ink cartridges?**

A Laser cartridges last significantly longer, are much larger, and have more moving parts than ink cartridges.

**Q What is "dpi"?**

A It is an acronym for "dots per inch," meaning the number of color dots a printer can produce per square inch.

**Q How large can my prints be?**

A Print size is determined by the capabilities of a specific printer. Prints can range from 4x6 up to 11x17 or larger.

## External Hard Drives

**Q How much storage capacity can external hard drives have?**

A External hard drives vary in storage capacity from 20GB or 40GB up to 2TB (terabytes).

**Q What type of interfaces do external hard drives use?**

A USB and FireWire are the most common interface types and offer decent transfer speeds.

**Q Can I schedule backups to my external hard drive like I can on my computer?**

A Yes. In fact, some external hard drives will actually come packaged with backup software.

**Q Can I create multiple storage areas on an external hard drive?**

A Yes, this is called partitioning. The device itself may have software that can partition drives, or you may have to create partitions with other software.

**Q Are external hard drives safe to carry around?**

A External hard drives should be treated with care for fear of scratching the heads on the disks, but they are safe to carry around if they aren't exposed to undue bumps or drops.

**Q Can I install programs on an external hard drive?**

A External hard drives do not have operating systems and therefore cannot run applications.

# Notebooks

## 5 Must-Have Accessories

A laptop is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what you need to go along with your shiny new purchase. We've rounded up five of our favorite accessories that every laptop owner should add to her shopping list. FG

BY JOY MARTIN

**1 Laptops aren't cheap, so you'll want to protect yours.** After splurging on a laptop, the first thing you need to consider is how you're going to protect it. You bought a laptop for its portability, so it's important to buy a good case that can protect it and keep it mobile. Cases are available in a multitude of styles and colors, so you're sure to find one that meets your needs. We especially like laptop bags with wheels and telescoping handles because they're so handy when you are traveling. Look for a bag that is built for your screen size and has plenty of zippered pockets to store your notebook accessories and paperwork.

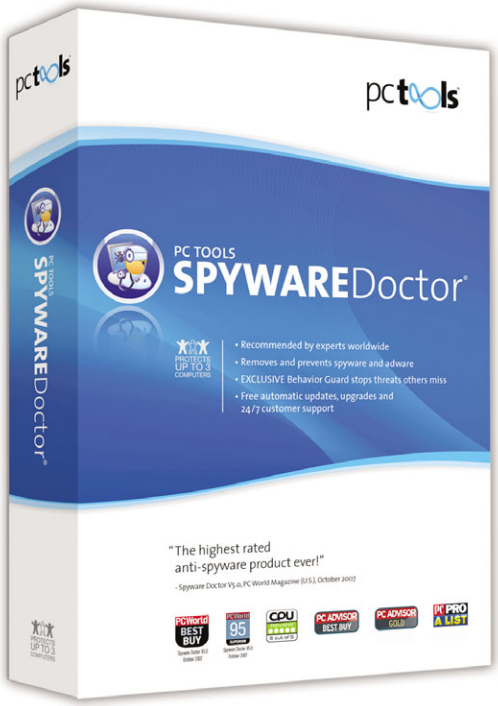
**2 A mouse is easier to work with than a pointing stick.** Although laptops are well-suited for working on the go, the touchpad and/or pointing stick (that little nub in the middle of the keyboard that enables you to navigate the on-screen pointer) that replace your desktop computer's mouse can be hard to manipulate. If you prefer a mouse, look for a wired mouse that plugs into your USB port or even a cordless mouse. The sleek design of cordless mice makes them easy to transport, and the USB receivers are small enough to leave plugged in, so your mouse will always be ready when you need it.

**3 Surge protectors designed for laptops will offer your notebook PC some much-needed protection from spikes in power.** You didn't have to think twice before plugging your desktop computer into a power conditioner or surge protector. But do you take the same precautions every time you use your laptop—no matter where you happen to be? Surge protectors ensure that the electrical current running to the device(s) attached to it doesn't exceed acceptable levels, which can cause serious damage. In fact, a sudden spike in electricity can destroy a laptop, so taking the time to plug into one every time is worth the few seconds it takes. For convenient protection on the go, surge protectors designed specifically for laptops are compact, making them easy to pack away in your laptop bag.

**4 Portable USB hubs let you connect a few extra peripherals while you're out of the office.** USB ports let you connect all sorts of electronic goodies to your computer, but what if you have more gadgets than ports? A USB hub, such as Dynex's 4-Port USB 2.0 Hub ($29.99; www.bestbuy.com), is an affordable way to ensure you can connect all of your peripherals. In addition to giving you more ports, cords to items such as a digital camera or music player can be left plugged in on your desk, so they are ready to go next time you use your laptop.

**5 An extra battery lets you keep working on the road when you're far away from your recharger.** We love laptops for their portability—they let us work without being tethered to a desk. But that flexibility is limited to how long the battery holds a charge. Having an extra battery on hand that's powered and ready to go gives you the ability to work longer, without having to find a power outlet. Batteries vary from laptop to laptop, but with your model number in hand, you can find a replacement for any brand.

# Internet Security & Monitoring
## Protection You Can Trust




PC Tools
Spyware Doctor®

MSRP: $29.95
SKU: 8988232

www.pctools.com

### Quick Overview

Security software is an absolute necessity for anyone who's on the Internet. Malicious programs such as spyware, adware, and viruses put your computer and your identity at risk every day. By using PC Tools Spyware Doctor, you can be confident that you have the most advanced threat protection, recommended by computer and security experts globally and trusted by millions of users every day.

### Perfect For

Spyware Doctor is for those who want to keep their computers free of malware with an easy-to-use interface and award-winning technology.

### Outstanding Benefits

- Award-winning software recommended by experts worldwide
- Prevents malicious programs from stealing personal information, degrading system performance, and damaging your important files
- Frequent automatic updates ensure your protection is up-to-date
- Built-in behavioral technology automatically keeps you safe from the newest online threats
- IntelliGuard® real-time protection blocks threats before they harm the PC
- Easy to install and use with immediate automatic protection
- Free 24/7 phone support for all customers

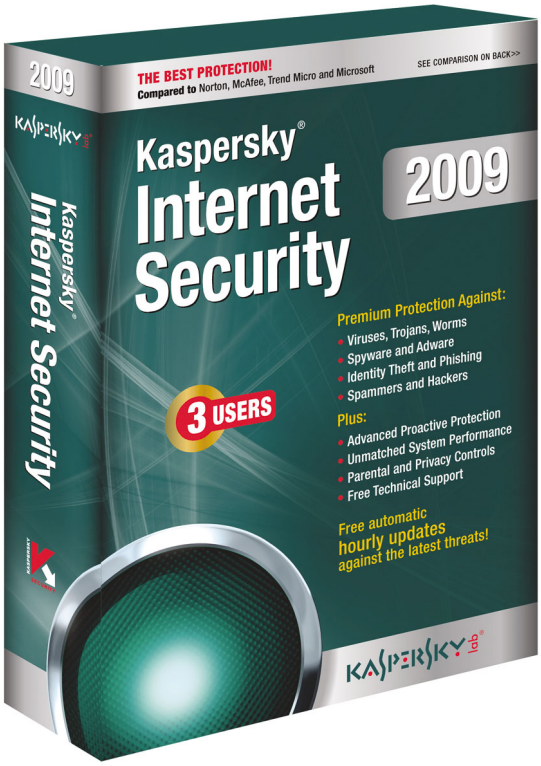
### Coolest Feature

Currently recognized by industry experts as the best product available to remove spyware and keep it off your system while still being one of the easiest to use.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Internet Security & Monitoring

## The New Standard In Internet Security




Kaspersky® Internet Security

MSRP: $79.95

SKU: 8940774

www.kaspersky.com

### Quick Overview

Kaspersky® Internet Security—Complete Internet security protection with anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-phishing, anti-spam and anti-hacker technologies. Plus parental controls and virtual keyboard.

### Perfect For

Kaspersky Internet Security offers comprehensive protection for home and small office users. Browse the Web, send and receive email, shop and bank online, and exchange instant messages.

### Outstanding Benefits

- Premium protection against viruses, Trojans and worms, spyware and adware, identity theft and phishing, spammers and hackers
- Advanced proactive protection
- Unmatched system performance
- Parental controls, privacy controls, and virtual keyboard
- Automatic hourly updates
- Free technical support

### Coolest Feature

Kaspersky **virtual keyboard** prevents cybercriminals from stealing your password, banking information, and credit card numbers because mouse clicks cannot be recorded or traced.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

COREL™

# Photo & Imaging
# Easy, Fun & Professional!

Corel®
Paint Shop Pro®
Photo X2
Ultimate

MSRP: $99.99
SKU: 9029106

www.corel.com

## Quick Overview

Corel® Paint Shop Pro® Photo X2 Ultimate is dynamic photo-editing software that's loaded with everything from easy, automatic photo-fixing tools to precision editing controls that deliver full professional power. Plus, the Ultimate edition is packed with extras, including media recovery software, professionally designed creative content, Corel® Painter™ Photo Essentials 4, and a 2GB USB flash drive—extras that total more than $200 in value.

## Perfect For

Everyone from casual camera owners and photo hobbyists to professional photographers.

## Outstanding Benefits

- **FREE** 2GB flash drive
- **FREE** Corel® Painter™ Photo Essentials lets you turn your photos into paintings in three easy steps.
- **FREE** Media Recovery Software that can recover images, movies, and sound files from reformatted memory cards.
- **FREE** Background Remover Plug In that lets you isolate an image area, remove it from the background, and place it in a different image.
- **FREE** Creative Content Pack with 150 new, custom-made frames, patterns, and Picture Tubes™.
- Fully Certified for Windows Vista, Microsoft's highest certification level.

## Coolest Feature

Remove blemishes, whiten teeth, and even look thinner, all in a few simple clicks with the unique **Makeover Tools**.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

roxio

# Multimedia Software

## Create, Preserve & Share The Stories Of Your Life

Roxio Creator™ 2009

MSRP: $99.99

SKU: 8988278

www.roxio.com

### Quick Overview

Roxio Creator 2009 is a complete multimedia suite for all your video, photo, music, data, burning, and sharing needs. Creator makes it easy for family members of every age and experience level to transform photos and video from digital cameras, camcorders, and camera phones into awesome multimedia stories to share with family and friends—safely online on a private Roxio Web page and on DVD or Blu-ray Disc.

### Perfect For

All family members and digital media enthusiasts alike.

### Outstanding Benefits

- Creator's sleek new design delivers the right tools and helpful tips at your fingertips
- Keep your precious memories safe with the industry's best burning and copying tools
- Edit movies automatically or with timeline precision and burn DVDs or Blu-ray Discs like a pro
- Make the most of your music with hot playlists for any occasion—even convert CD audiobooks for iPod playback
- Create instant online photo slideshows on a private, secure Web page

### Coolest Feature

Capture HD video, including AVCHD with the optional HD/Blu-ray Disc Plug-in and burn it to Blu-ray Discs. Burn HD video on standard DVDs for playback on your PlayStation 3 or other Blu-ray player.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

NUANCE

# Voice Recognition Software
# The Experience Speaks For Itself

Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 Preferred Windows

MSRP: $199.99
SKU: 8970544

www.nuance.com

## Quick Overview

With Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 Preferred speech-recognition software, small business and advanced PC users have the power to produce documents, reports, and email messages up to three times faster than most people type. Set-up is quick and easy with no need for special scipt reading before getting started. And with an accuracy rate of up to 99%, you can feel assured of a high-quality result.

## Perfect For

Any user who wants to increase his productivity, including times when he is away from the computer.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Turns your voice into text at a rate approximately three times faster than most people type
- New on-screen help and tutorials make it easy to become an expert user
- Installs quickly and requires no special script reading
- Up to 99% accuracy means you can perform tasks with confidence and never make a spelling mistake
- Dictate into any Nuance-certified handheld device for automatic transcription when you sync with your PC
- Includes a Nuance-approved noise-canceling headset microphone

## Coolest Feature

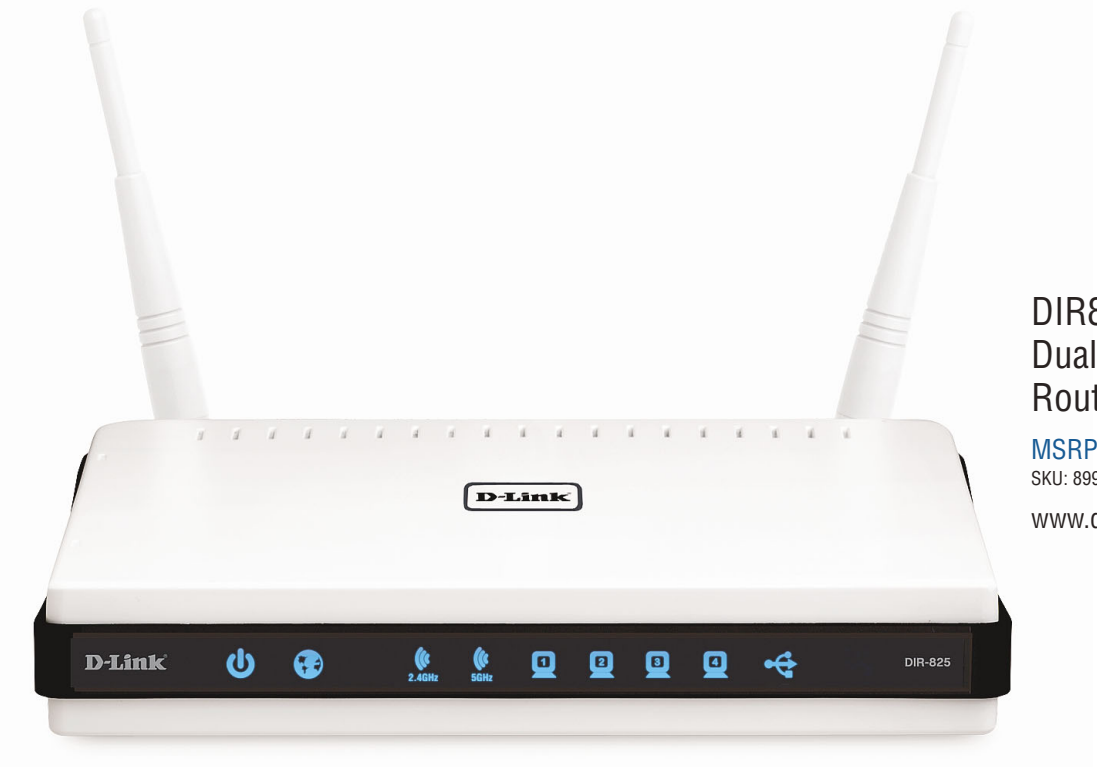
Surf the Web by voice or dictate and edit in most Windows-based applications, including Microsoft Word and Excel and Corel WordPerfect.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

D-Link®

# Wireless Router
# Building Networks For People




DIR825 Xtreme N Dual Band Gigabit Router

MSRP: $149.99
SKU: 8996937

www.dlink.com

## Quick Overview

Connect the Xtreme N Dual Band Router to a cable or DSL modem and provide high-speed Internet access to multiple computers, game consoles, and media players. Create a secure wireless network to share photos, files, music, games, videos, and a printer.

## Perfect For

Larger homes or offices that are looking for the latest in router technology and performance, while being energy efficient. This router streams media over the 5GHz band and simultaneously streams other files over the 2.4GHz band.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Easy Router Set up software helps make the installation easy
- Backward compatible with 802.11g and 802.11a devices
- 4 gigabit ports let you connect computers using wires up to 1,000Mbps
- Secure your wireless network using advanced WPA™ or WPA2™ encryption and dual active firewalls (SPI and NAT) that blocks internet attacks
- SharePort enables you to share any USB device over the network
- Compatible with PCs and Macs
- Power-saving features

## Coolest Feature

Router automatically optimizes the network and adjusts for Internet surfing, streaming music and video, and gaming. This makes sure you don't loose your connection in the middle of an online game or a VoIP call.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Actiontec®

# Wireless DSL Modem
## Eliminate Complex Multi-device Installations

Actiontec GT724WGR
All-in-one DSL
Networking Solution

MSRP: $89.99
SKU: 8661655

www.actiontec.com

### Quick Overview

Whether you're replacing an old DSL modem or considering purchasing an add-on wireless router, this all-in-one solution does it all. Why struggle with complex configurations between DSL modems, external routers, and wireless devices? The GT724WGR is three products in one. Setup couldn't be easier—simply plug in your DSL phone line, connect your computer, and click auto-configuration.

### Perfect For

Anyone who wants a completely integrated networking solution in one box (DSL modem, wireless networking, and full routing capabilities).

### Outstanding Benefits

- High-performance DSL modem with a built-in 4-port 10/100Mbps router and wireless connectivity. It's an instant home network.
- Tested for maximum performance on all major DSL providers including AT&T, Verizon, Qwest, and BellSouth.
- Replaces your need for a service provider modem.
- Easy and quick setup—this device auto-configures itself.
- Built-in commercial-grade firewall and wireless security.
- Backed with excellent customer service and support.
- Manufactured by Actiontec, a leading DSL equipment supplier with over 15 MILLION access devices deployed.

### Coolest Feature

The built-in auto-configuration tool works with any type of computer or operating system. You can have your network up and running in minutes!

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

# Notebook
# The Features You've Asked For

## HP Pavilion dv3510nr

MSRP: $1,199.99
SKU: 9027714

www.hp.com

## Quick Overview

Expanding on the sophisticated elegance of the current line, the new dv series notebook is defined by fluid, modern lines with surprising innovations inside and out. This streamlined and thin notebook is enhanced with a color-matched keyboard and touchpad. And, as a part of Best Buy's Blue Label line, it was fashioned together with additional features you've asked for.

## Perfect For

For those who want the latest technologies in a stunning design that truly reflects today's need for mobile computing day or night.

## Outstanding Benefits

- A Best Buy Blue Label notebook, which was created based upon customer feedback
- Keep going even after dark with the backlit keyboard
- Protect your PC with a full year of Norton Internet Security™ 2008
- Get better energy efficiency and less weight with a13.3-inch diagonal HP BrightView LED
- Chat face-to-face or capture video clips using the HP Webcam and integrated microphone
- Work and play longer with up to four hours of battery life
- Windows Vista® Home Premium operating system

## Coolest Feature

This Blue Label notebook was developed as a joint venture between Best Buy and HP to address what customers want in a mobile computer.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

msi NOTEBOOK

# Netbook
# Fast & Incredibly Light

## MSI Wind Netbook

MSRP: $399.99
SKU: 9078534

www.msimobile.com

## Quick Overview

We don't often find the greater power we're looking for in smaller-than-ordinary devices, but that's exactly what the MSI Wind Netbook delivers. The Wind (an acronym for "Wi-Fi Network Device") is sure to please users wishing to take their computers with them anywhere they go. The Wind's ergonomically designed keyboard, only 20% smaller than a full-sized keyboard, offers comfort to mobile professionals who spend a lot of time with their notebooks.

## Perfect For

Those who are looking for an affordable laptop without sacrificing convenience or performance.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Intel® Atom™ N270 1.6GHz Processor
- 120GB hard drive SATA 1
- 1GB of DDR2 Memory
- 10-inch LCD with 1,024 x 600 resolution
- SoundBlaster Compatible, Internal Speaker x 2
- 4-in-1 Card Reader compatible with SD/MMC/MS/MSpro cards
- 1.3-megapixel Web cam
- 3 USB 2.0 Ports, 1 VGA, 1 Mic-in Port, 1 Headphone Output
- Windows XP Home Edition
- Compact size at 0.75x10.2x7.1 inches (HxWxD) and 2.3-pound weight

## Coolest Feature

The Wind's display features embedded LED power-saving backlight technology, which provides superior color quality and brightness.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?

A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several models available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

| | | Operating system | Processor | Hard drive size; RAM | Screen size | Dimensions; Weight | Optical drives; Media card reader |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | What It Means | The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer | Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better) | How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to | The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen | Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs | Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral |
| Netbooks | **MSI Wind Netbook** MSRP: $399.99* SKU 9078534 See p. 61 | Windows XP Home | 1.6GHz Intel Atom | 120GB; 1GB | 10 inches | 0.748x10.23x 7.08; 2.3 pounds | No; No |
| Netbooks | **Asus Eee PC 900 BK039X** MSRP: $449.99* SKU 8905973 | Windows XP Home | 900MHz Intel Celeron | 16GB; 1GB DDR2 | 8.9 inches | 1.3x8.9x6.7 inches; 2.2 pounds | No; Yes |
| | **Compaq Presario CQ50-215NR** MSRP: $549.99* SKU 9027698 | Windows Vista Home Premium | 1.9GHz AMD Athlon X2 | 160GB; 2GB DDR2 | 15.4 inches | 1.7x14.1x 10.2 inches; 6.4 pounds | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; No |
| | **Acer Aspire AS6930-6809** MSRP: $699.99* SKU 9053098 | Windows Vista Home Premium | 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile | 320GB; 3GB DDR2 | 16 inches | 1.7x15.7x 11.5 inches; 7.5 pounds | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes |
| | **HP Pavilion dv3510nr** MSRP: $1,199.99* SKU 9027714 See p. 60 | Windows Vista Home Premium | 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile | 320GB; 4GB | 14.1 inches | 1.2x13.4x9.7 inches; 5 pounds | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes |
| | **Toshiba E105-S1402** MSRP: $1,199.99* SKU 9022979 | Windows Vista Home Premium | 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile | 320GB; 4GB | 14.1 inches | 1.2x13.4x9.7 inches; 5 pounds | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; Yes |
| | **Apple MacBook MB467LL/A** MSRP: $1,599* SKU 9107432 | Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard | 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo | 250GB; 2GB DDR3 | 13.3 inches | 0.95x12.78x 8.94 inches; 4.5 pounds | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW; No |
| | **Sony Vaio VGN-FW298Y/H** MSRP: $1,999.99* SKU 9047006 | Windows Vista Home Premium | 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo | 320GB; 4GB DDR2 | 16.4 inches | 1.46x15.1x 10.3 inches; 6.47 pounds | DVD-RW, BD-RW, or BD combo drive; Yes |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Which Desktop PC Is Right For You?

When you shop for a desktop PC, you'll see lots of similar deals. The comparison chart below shows how subtle—yet important—the differences can be. If you can't find one of these on Best Buy's Web site (www.bestbuy.com), visit or call your local Best Buy store, and it should be available there.

| | Processor | Hard drive size; RAM | Optical drives | Operating system | Graphics card | Ports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better) | How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to | Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs | The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer | Controls the quality of your video and images | Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals |
| **eMachines T5274** MSRP: $399.99* SKU 8891675 | 2GHz Intel Pentium Dual-Core | 320GB; 2GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 | 6 USB; 1 VGA |
| **Acer AX3200-U3600A** MSRP: $479.99* SKU 9026957 | 2.1GHz AMD Phenom X3 | 320GB; 4GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | Nvidia GeForce 8400 | 9 USB; 1 FireWire; 1 eSATA; 1 HDMI |
| **Gateway DX4720-03** MSRP: $509.99* SKU 9032352 | 2.5GHz Intel Pentium Dual-Core | 640GB; 4GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | Nvidia GeForce 7100 | 6 USB; 2 FireWire |
| **Dell Hybrid-118B** MSRP: $749.99* SKU 8977823 | 2.16GHz Intel Core Duo | 250GB; 3GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | Intel Graphics Media Accelerator X3100 | 6 USB; 1 FireWire |
| **Dell SMT-117B** MSRP: $899.99* SKU 9017093 | 2.33GHz Intel Core 2 Quad | 1.2TB; 8GB | DVD-RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | ATI Radeon 3450 | 10 USB; 2 FireWire |
| **HP TouchSmart IQ506** MSRP: $1,499.99* SKU 8883292 | 2.16GHz Intel Core Duo | 500GB; 4GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Windows Vista Home Premium | Nvidia GeForce 9300 M GS HD | 5 USB; 1 FireWire |
| **Apple MB325LL/A** MSRP: $1,799* SKU 8844726 | 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo | 320GB; 2GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW | Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard | ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro | 5 USB; 2 FireWire |
| **Velocity Micro Edge E2250** MSRP: $1,999.99* SKU 8782169 | 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Quad | 750GB; 4GB | Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW/ DVD-ROM | Windows Vista Home Premium | Nvidia EVGA GeForce 9800 GTX | 6 USB; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video; 2 DVI |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

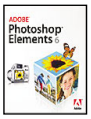
# Software Listings

## Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

## Art/Illustration/Graphics

**Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 Ultimate**
See p. 55
$99.99*
www.corel.com
*Professional photo-editing software in an easy-to-use package. The Ultimate version also comes with a bonus pack loaded with free extras.*



**Adobe Photoshop Elements 6**
$99.99*
www.adobe.com
*Photoshop Elements 6 from Adobe makes it easy to fix red-eye, combine photos for the perfect group shot, or tweak the color balance to make your photos look their best.*

**Roxio Creator 2009**
See p. 56
$99.99*
www.roxio.com
*With Roxio's new Creator 2009, preserving your memories has become simpler than ever. You can now easily edit and touch up your photos, create unique DVDs using your home movies, and organize your music collection.*

**Broderbund The Print Shop 22 Deluxe**
$49.99*
www.broderbund.com
*Easily create banners, business cards, letterheads, calendars, photo greeting cards, invitations, and more right from your computer with The Print Shop 22 Deluxe from Broderbund.*

## Audio/Video

**Pinnacle Studio Ultimate version 11**
$129.99*
www.pinnaclesys.com
*Use automated and powerful video- and audio-editing tools to create and share your home movies.*

**Apple iLife '08**
$79*
www.apple.com
*Use Apple's popular iPhoto, iWeb, GarageBand, and iDVD on your Mac to organize photos, create a Web site, record music, or edit movies.*

**Magix Music Maker 14**
$59.99*
www.magix.com
*Produce your own music using more than 1,500 sounds, virtual instruments, and power chords. When you're done, use Music Maker 14 to create a music video.*

**Cakewalk Music Creator 4**
$39*
www.cakewalk.com
*Record, edit, and mix all kinds of instrumental and vocal music with this music composition program from Cakewalk.*

## Business Applications

**Microsoft Office Standard 2007**
$399.95*
www.microsoft.com
*Use all of today's most popular business office applications, including Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word.*

**Adobe Acrobat 8 Standard**
$299*
www.adobe.com
*Easily create, combine, and manage various PDF documents for your personal or business needs.*

**Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2008**
$99.99*
www.intuit.com
*Manage your money and see where you stand financially with Quicken's newly redesigned Business Center.*

**Smith Micro Software VMware Fusion**
$79.99*
www.vmware.com
*This program lets you run Windows applications on your Intel-based Mac for greater freedom and productivity.*

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

## Games/ Entertainment

**2K Games Sid Meier's Civilization IV**
$29.99*
www.2kgames.com
*This addictive strategy game has a multiplayer mode for additional ways to compete against your friends.*

**Got Game Entertainment Arctic Stud Poker Run**
$19.99*
www.gotgameentertainment.com
*This game combines the strategy of poker, the thrill of racing, and the explosions of combat in Tournament Elimination, single-player, or multiplayer modes.*

**MumboJumbo Polar Games**
$19.99*
www.mumbojumbo.com
*In this safe-for-the-whole-family game, four players can compete to see who's the best bowler or golfer.*

**SouthPeak Games Dream Pinball 3D**
$19.99*
www.southpeakgames.com
*Play pinball on your computer with six table themes, several ball options, multiball power-ups, and intense visuals and ball physics.*

## Home Productivity

**Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 Preferred**
See p. 57
$199.99*
www.nuance.com
*Dictate emails, reports, and other documents much faster than you can type and let Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you.*

**Susteen DataPilot Universal Kit w/ Bluetooth**
$69.95*
www.susteen.com
*Connect your cell phone to your computer or Bluetooth adapter to back up your phone's address book, synchronize your phone book and calendar with Outlook, or use your phone as a wireless modem for your laptop.*

**Microsoft Streets & Trips 2008**
$39.95*
www.microsoft.com
*Plan your next vacation and share your travel plans with friends who will be joining you along the journey.*

## Networking & Communications

**Kaspersky Labs Internet Security 2009**
See p. 54
$79.95*
www.kaspersky.com
*Premium protection that's updated hourly to keep your system safe from even the most recent threats.*

**Trend Micro Internet Security Pro**
$69.95* (one-year subscription)
www.us.trendmicro.com
*Whether you're surfing the Web from home or away, your sensitive information will be safe.*

**Check Point ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite**
$69.95*
www.checkpoint.com
*ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite is your one-stop security shop for protection both online and off, with antivirus, antispyware, antispam, antiphishing, and identity-theft protection.*

**Webroot Software Spy Sweeper With AntiVirus**
$49.99*
www.webroot.com
*Protect up to three computers from viruses and spyware. Spy Sweeper stops both known and potential threats by blocking suspicious activity.*

**PC Tools Spyware Doctor 6**
See p. 53
$29.95*
www.pctools.com
*Surf the Internet with confidence knowing Spyware Doctor will prevent known and emerging spyware threats from reaching your PC.*

## System Utilities

**Symantec Norton Ghost 14.0**
$69.99*
www.symantec.com
*Back up your entire computer or select specific files for back-up to ensure you're able to recover from any unforeseen events, such as a crash or virus attack.*

**iolo System Mechanic Professional**
$69.95*
www.iolo.com
*With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.*

**GuardID Systems ID Vault**
$49.99*
www.guardid.com
*Although it looks like a USB flash drive, ID Vault safely stores login and password information to keep your information safe from keyloggers and phishing scams.*

**White Canyon WipeDrive 5**
$39.95*
www.whitecanyon.com
*When it's time to dispose of your old computer, use White Canyon's WipeDrive to ensure that all traces of your personal information are completely removed.*

# CE Retailers' Mobile Services

## One-Stop Convenience

If you've wandered the aisles of your favorite CE retailer, you've likely seen a wireless kiosk or two. What you may not realize is these "stores within a store" can provide many benefits beyond visiting a traditional cell phone carrier's store. Here's a closer look at the mobile services you'll find at CE retailers.

### Many Plan Options

In many cases, mobile stores within a CE retailer's store offer services from multiple carriers. This makes it easy for you to directly compare one carrier's plans to another's. On the flip side, if you were at one carrier's wireless store, it'd be highly unlikely that you could get straightforward facts about how its services and plans compare to another carrier. With in-store mobile services from a variety of carriers, you'll get all the facts in one location.

### One-Stop Shop

For many of us, it seems that there is never enough time to get everything done. Because CE retailers frequently offer accessories for all types of phones, you can get everything you need for your new phone—including a memory card, Bluetooth headset, and case—without having to visit another store.

### Handheld Comparison

Each carrier offers its own set of handsets to be used on its network. If you're trying to choose between two phones, you'll be able to compare them side-by-side, pick them up, and interact with them in a mobile store. In addition, you will be able to compare handsets from various carriers. When upgrading phones, many wireless stores can also help transfer your address book from your old phone. FG

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

## Mobile Service Offerings

Best Buy has rolled out Best Buy Mobile. This joint venture with Carphone Warehouse aims to provide a better mobile phone shopping experience. In addition to many of the benefits listed above, Best Buy Mobile can provide customers with impartial, in-depth information for about eight to 10 carriers and help customers find a carrier that'll best suit their needs. These mobile phone specialists are noncommissioned, so you know you'll get honest input. In addition, Best Buy Mobile's phone experts can help explain the various technologies and services that are available today and show you how those services can fit into your lifestyle.

All of us want to get a good deal without a lot of hassle. Prices for phones through Best Buy Mobile are clearly marked, and you won't have to deal with rebates. Should something go wrong with your phone, Best Buy can provide repair services and loaner phones to help you get back up and running. Finally, because Best Buy offers a number of other products outside the mobile realm, associates can demonstrate how your phone or wireless service can interact with other devices, such as your laptop. ●

# GPS Devices

## They're Not All The Same

Printing out maps and turn-by-turn directions from the Internet is so yesterday. Stopping to ask someone for directions? Even more outdated.

With GPS devices, you don't have to do either. Instead, you can tap into the maps or DVD database, download Web-based updates, and receive optional real-time traffic services to get where you need to go.

GPS devices differ as widely as the vehicles and drivers they guide. Generally, they fall into three categories—handheld, portable, and in-dash—and they offer different features and form factors. We'll explain each type and point you to the one that best suits your lifestyle and travel needs. FG

BY RACHEL DEROWITSCH

### Handheld

- Compact and lightweight
- Loaded with detailed maps
- Rugged hardware
- Easy to use and take with you

Handhelds are generally smaller, lighter, and less expensive than the other two types of GPS devices. Some are designed to help you track your exercise regimen and monitor your heart rate. A few even strap around your wrist, making physical activities, such as biking or jogging, easier. Others double as a PDA.

Integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities enable you to easily download the most current maps and traffic information. On some models, if you input your destination the device will figure out the most efficient way to go, guiding you with colored graphics and text and voice prompts.

**Perfect For:** Hikers, bikers, and drivers. Handheld devices are ideal for outdoor enthusiasts who also, ocasionally, like to hit the road.

### Portable

- Car-mountable
- Easily moves from car to car
- Runs on vehicle and sometimes battery power
- Loaded with detailed maps

No matter where you need it, a portable GPS device will help get you to your destination. It's designed to run on a vehicle's power source, but, if you want to take a spontaneous hike trip, you can carry the battery-powered units with you, as well.

With larger touchscreens than handheld models, portable GPS devices can map out your directions in full color. Programed points of interest, a trip calculator, antitheft system, and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery are other features to look for.

**Perfect For:** Trip-takers. Portable GPS devices are ideal for multicar families who want to switch the device among vehicles and possibly take it along on an outdoor excursion.

### In-Dash

- Large screen
- Multimedia functions
- Robust navigation features
- Pulls in strongest satellite signals

The maps and trip-calculating features of an in-dash GPS device are by far the most advanced of the three types. One thing to consider: You will probably need professional installation for an in-dash system.

These larger GPS devices come with more bells and whistles than are available in smaller models. Some features to consider include Bluetooth compatibility, satellite radio, and integration with an MP3 player. With some in-dash models, you can also receive live weather and traffic updates.

**Perfect For:** Road warriors. Those who travel extensively and frequently visit new and unfamiliar places will definitely appreciate this device's large screen, powerful navigating capabilities, and entertainment options.

# Hire An Expert Copilot

## Shop For The Perfect GPS Device

You can spot him a mile away. He's slowing down at strange places, speeding up randomly, stopping at various intersections, gawking, and straining to read street signs. This out-of-town driver who doesn't know his way around is sure to annoy you at some point. One way to avoid being that guy when you're in an unfamiliar location is to use a GPS device. Here are a few things to consider as you're shopping for the best GPS device for your uses.

### Form

There are portable, in-dash, and handheld GPS devices. Portable units are designed for street navigation and can be carried from one car to the next. Some of these units also have a pedestrian mode. In-dash units are meant to be more permanent and are usually professionally installed in the dashboard of your car. Handheld units are often the smallest in terms of size and typically have off-road capabilities.

### Text-To-Speech

There's a big difference in price and functionality among devices that have text-to-speech and those that lack this feature. Text-to-speech enables a GPS device to speak the name of a street aloud instead of saying, "Turn right in 500 feet." This lets you keep your eyes on the road.

### Real-Time Traffic

Anyone who travels to large metropolitan areas will appreciate real-time traffic information. Some GPS devices support this feature with an add-on receiver, while others have a built-in traffic receiver. Both types generally require a subscription to an update service that provides information on current traffic conditions, including construction updates and traffic flow information. Some devices come with a trial subscription of this service.

### Bluetooth

Instead of investing in a hands-free car kit for your cell phone, look for a GPS unit that has this functionality built in. This way, you'll have one less device to pack (and forget) on your next trip. In addition, because the hands-free functionality is integrated into the GPS, the device can temporarily disable audible instructions to avoid interfering with your conversation.

### Controls

In order to be helpful, a GPS device must be easy to use. Play with a few different units to see which controls and layout you like best. Also, pay attention to the maps and images on-screen along with the different screen views to make sure they are easy to understand. FG

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

## Map Updates

A navigation device is only as accurate as the maps from which it calculates. Some GPS devices come with free map updates for a specified length of time after purchase. Refer to your users manual for more information on how to update and the length of time free updates are available. To update your device, you'll likely need to connect the GPS unit to a computer that has an Internet connection. ●

## DRM-Free Music Downloads

There are several online music stores that provide DRM-free tracks in the universal MP3 format. Some stores are subscription-based, such as eMusic (www.emusic.com), which lets you download a certain number of songs for a flat monthly fee. Other stores, such as Audio Lunchbox (www.audiolunchbox.com), let you set up a subscription or purchase one song at a time and pay as you go. Many former file-sharing sites, such as Napster (www.napster.com), have switched to these methods, charging anywhere between $10 and $20 per month for DRM-free downloads. Some music download sites feature mostly indie music, however, so before you sign up for a subscription, be sure that the site carries the types of music you're interested in downloading. ●

# Listen Up

## Shop For The Perfect MP3 Player

Whether you want to spice up tomorrow morning's commute to work with your favorite tunes or audio book or need a little extra motivation to complete this week's workout session, choosing the right MP3 player for the job is a lot easier when you have a few simple tips to follow.

### Budget

First, you should plan a budget by considering the ways you will use your MP3 player. The more features your MP3 player has, the more expensive it can become. Deciding which features you'll need will help you narrow down which players are right for you. And don't forget to factor in extras, such as a protective carrying case or additional headphones or earbuds.

### Features

Some MP3 players let you add pictures, transforming them into pocket-sized photo albums. Others have video playback, making a long road trip much more entertaining. Many players have functions that will let you listen to FM radio or record voice memos. The newest feature available is Wi-Fi capability, which lets you wirelessly share music with friends or download music on the go, rather than waiting to connect to your computer.

### File Compatibility

One important topic to be aware of is file compatibility because an MP3 player may only support certain file types. Generally, you'll see players that are compatible with MP3, WAV, WMA, and AAC files. Some players also have limited photo and video file support so choose a player that covers most of the file types you have in your collection, that is compatible with your computer, and that matches the types of files you want to download from your favorite music site. Choosing an MP3 player that supports the majority of the file types you plan to use will ultimately save you time and money because you won't have to convert file types or buy music tracks in another format.

### DRM

One last thing to keep in mind when shopping for an MP3 player is DRM (digital rights management) protection and its relationship with downloadable media. If a file is DRM-protected, it has been restricted to limited use for only specific devices or a certain period of time. Some MP3 players directly coincide with particular DRM file types, so you want to ensure that the player you choose supports files other than only that player's DRM . FG

BY KRIS GLASER

# Conversations On Your Terms

## Shop For The Perfect Phone

Your cell phone can be so many things to you: a primary communicating device, a scheduler, a music player, a camera, a GPS device, and more. This is exactly why you should decide which phone best matches your lifestyle—one that combines your preferred design and delivers on the performance end.

### Budgets & Contracts

Before you decide to buy any phone or upgrade to a new one, determine how much you'll be using your phone. Take into account the number of minutes you talk during off-peak times (nights and weekends), texting, long-distance calls, and Internet access. If you think you can commit to a plan offered by a carrier, you could score a free or largely discounted phone when you sign up for a service contract.

Those who would rather have the freedom to switch carriers at any time without incurring a termination fee can opt for an unlocked phone. Although you'll pay full retail price for an unlocked phone, which can be several hundred dollars, you'll enjoy the flexibility of being able to change your carrier at any time.

### First-Rate Features

Choosing quality features can take some consideration, especially if you don't want to pay for anything you won't actually use. First of all, you'll want to decide between a regular cell phone and a smartphone. A smartphone functions as a mini, mobile computer by allowing you to check your email, update your schedule, use applications, run programs, and access Web browsers. They run on a particular operating system, depending on the model and carrier.

Texters will appreciate the QWERTY keyboard (a PC keyboard layout) that's featured on many standard phones, as well as most smartphones. Cell phone cameras and video recorders have improved immensely, so if you want to snap a photo or capture a short video clip, look for phones with a high megapixel resolution. Multimedia options support MP3 files, streaming Wi-Fi video, and FM radio. Don't forget to check for Bluetooth capabilities if you're a hands-free, always-on-the-go talker. FG

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

## Your Mobile Hub

Phone shopping is now a lot easier, thanks to the Mobile Phone Specialists at Best Buy Mobile. At Best Buy Mobile, you'll be able to take advantage of the large selection of well-known brands and familiar networks.

In-house associates are on hand to explain service plans, recommend accessories, and offer ways to repair your phone if it happens to take a spill. And when you see a price listed next to a phone, that's what you'll truly pay. Instead of visiting a single standalone wireless provider, give Best Buy Mobile a try this time. You'll walk out with the ideal phone and plan for your lifestyle. ●

# MP3 Players

## 5 Must-Have Accessories

Nailing down a list of must-have accessories for an MP3 player is tricky. Just because an iPod dock for the kitchen tops your list, for example, doesn't mean it even cracks an avid jogger's Top 5. Ultimately, though, five general categories stand out, although other notable accessories include extra batteries, cleaning kits, and Bluetooth adapters. FG

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

**1** **Match your earphones to your needs.** Sometimes a runner doesn't fare well with earbuds, which fall out due to the constant jostle of running. This is a burden for anyone hoping to get in a good workout. A runner should opt for headphones that are secure, and in this case, an in-the-ear earbud would be the ideal choice. Headphone styles are numerous and include wired/wireless earbuds, which are perfect for people on the go (students, mass-transit users), and earcups, which can satisfy any audiophile's need to hear minute musical details.

**2** **Portable speakers and docks are perfect for letting the entire group listen to tunes in open areas.** Whether you want to listen to Enya as you take shelter from a winter storm or need some musical motivation as you shovel the snow blanketing your driveway, there's no limit to where you can listen to your portable player. Don't let the pair of headphones that came with your player constrain you, either. Most speakers have a dock to recharge your player's battery. Check your MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for model numbers of available speakers and docks.

**3** **Beam the tunes on your portable music player through your car stereo.** If you're motoring about in the family van, music players can provide the soundtrack. You'll need an FM transmitter that plays the tunes on your portable music player over your car radio. Connect the transmitter to your player, select a designated frequency on the radio, tune to that same frequency on your transmitter, and listen to music, movies, podcasts, audiobooks, etc. Transmitters range from basic to sophisticated models (providing remote controls and visual interfaces), making it easy to find one that suits your needs.

**4** **Cases can protect your portable music player from scratches, bumps, water, physical drops, and mishaps that can otherwise shorten your player's life.** You decided to treat yourself and buy a high-end MP3 player. Because you've already spent so much, it's only right to assume that you have everything you need, right? Not quite. No matter what type of portable music player you own, it's wise to buy a case to protect it in different environments. Cases are relatively inexpensive (starting at around $20) and can provide a little protection from minor drops or normal wear and tear. Because cases are designed to work with specific players, check the MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for cases that are compatible.

**5** **Armbands can mean the difference between a workout you're proud of vs. one that is constantly interrupted by accidental drops and tugging, tangled cords.** Without a doubt, music is a huge motivator when it comes to exercise. No matter your sport, an armband that fits around your bicep offers stability for your portable music player and comfort for you. And for workouts that don't jostle your player, such as riding an exercise bike, a lanyard provides an inexpensive, effective alternative to an armband.

# Essential THINGS TO KNOW

## MP3 Player Accessories

### Docks

**Q Can I use a non-iPod DAP (digital audio player) with an iPod dock?**

A Typically, yes. Many iPod-branded docks include an auxiliary-in port that accepts non-iPod DAPs to output audio.

**Q Will spending more money on a dock get me better audio quality?**

A Generally, yes, although other significant factors include the type, quantity, size, and power of the dock's speaker drivers and the quality of any digital amplifying, signal processing, and bass-boosting audio technologies of the dock.

**Q What can docks do beyond charging a DAP's battery and outputting audio?**

A Depending on the model, docks now build in AM/FM/HD radio tuners; multiple connectivity options; equalizers; memory card slots; and speaker functionality.

**Q What form factors do docks come in?**

A With enough searching, you'll discover docks come in nearly every conceivable shape and size, including old-school boom box implementations with detachable speakers and hard-shelled cases for mobile use.

### FM Transmitters

**Q What is an FM transmitter?**

A This device is capable of broadcasting audio signals over an FM frequency that you can tune to and play over a standard FM radio, such as in your car or at home.

**Q What devices feature FM transmitters?**

A Devices with built-in FM transmitters can include portable music players and cell phones. FM transmitters can also be standalone devices with a 3.5mm headphone jack to accept audio input from other audio devices.

**Q What FM frequencies should I use with an FM transmitter?**

A Try finding stations full of static. Lower frequencies, from 87.7 to 91.9MHz bands, are largely free of commercial radio traffic that might interfere with an FM transmitter.

**Q Why can't I get my FM transmitter to work in cities?**

A Urban areas with lots of radio stations filling the air with FM signals can prevent low-powered FM tuners from tuning properly.

## Headphones

**Q How can I minimize ambient noise while I'm using headphones?**

A Make sure to choose a pair of headphones with noise-cancellation technology. Noise-cancellation headphones counter distracting environmental noise.

**Q Should I purchase earbuds or over-the-ear headphones?**

A This is a matter of preference. If you like take your tunes along with you, earbuds are a good lightweight choice. For more audio privacy, go for closed over-the-ear headphones.

**Q Are there some over-the-ear headphones I can use with my cell phone?**

A Yes. Recent models include an integrated talk and answer button that lets you communicate without removing your headphones. You can use either a Bluetooth-enabled smartphone or cell phone.

**Q How do waterproof earbuds work?**

A Waterproof earbuds feature an aquatic silencer that shuts out water and keeps underwater noise down. The coiled cable also prevents tangles while you swim. Be sure to protect your MP3 player with a waterproof case, as well.

**Q What's the purpose of clip-on headphones?**

A This design fits over your ear so you can freely jog without your headphones falling off. Other models are water-resistant and sweat-proof to prevent wear and tear.

## Cables & Connectors

**Q What do I need to view photos and video clips on my TV from my iPod?**

A A Composite A/V cable will let you connect your iPod to your TV, stereo, or powered speakers. Make sure that the cable is compatible with your iPod; different generations use different connections.

**Q I lost the sync and charging cable for my second-generation iPod shuffle. Can I get a replacement?**

A Yes, Dynex and other manufacturers offer USB Sync and charging cable replacements for various models of iPods. At your local CE retailer, you should be able to get a replacement cable for other MP3 players, as well.

**Q How can I connect my MP3 player to my home-stereo system?**

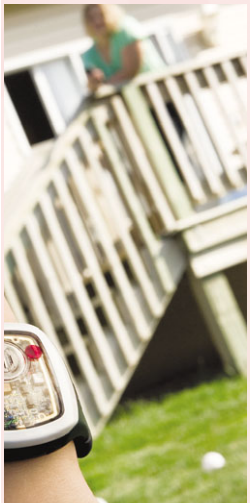
A You'll need an audio cable such as the Dynex Y Audio Cable. This cable has a Y design so that it is compatible with Component connections.

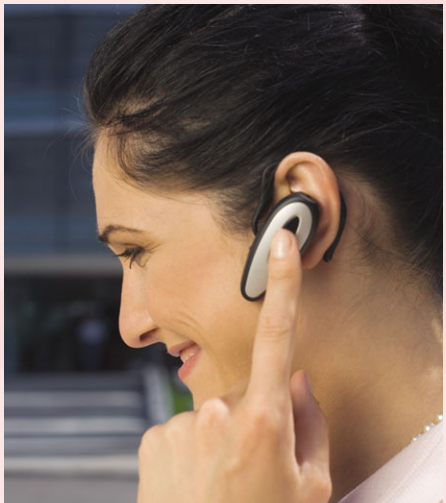
**Q Can I buy a cable kit for my MP3 player?**

A It depends on your make and model of MP3 player, but some manufacturers offer cable kits that include power cables, sync cables, and audio cables for connecting your device to power, the computer, or other devices.

**Q How can I connect two sets of headphones to my MP3 player?**

A Look for a stereo audio Y-adapter. This will connect to your player's headphone jack and split the signal so that two people can listen to the audio via headphones.





# iPhone & iPod Speaker
# Premium Versatility In A Portable Stereo System

Altec Lansing iMT702
inMotion MAX

MSRP: $199.95
SKU: 8948918

www.alteclansing.com

## Quick Overview

Go anywhere and take your music with you. Either battery powered or plugged in, the inMotion Max churns out lush stereo sound from your iPhone or iPod, or from the unit's built-in FM radio. XdB technology supplies the deep bass without a subwoofer. And ESS sound-widening technology expands the sound to fit any room. And the inMotion Max lets you take calls from your iPhone.

## Perfect For

Those with an ear for sound and want their music no matter where they are!

## Outstanding Benefits

- **Crystal-clear Sound** – Precision-matched speakers with ESS and XdB audio technologies deliver crisp, full-spectrum sound
- **FM Radio** – Features 4 station presets and wire antenna for superior reception. LCD displays song and FM station data
- **Rechargeable Battery** – The Li-Ion battery provides up to 3.5 hours of playing time
- **Perfect for Travel** – Folds up compactly and can serve as a wake-up call by enabling the iPhone and iPod alarm and sleep timer
- **Auxiliary Input** – Connect a second audio source via 3.5mm input jack

## Coolest Feature

The inMotion MAX is immune to mobile phone interference so your iPhone can stay on, always ready to take calls. The music automatically pauses when a call rings in and resumes when finished.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

MINT™
Digital Music Station

# Wireless PC & iPod Speaker

## Wireless Audio Freedom For Your Digital Lifestyle

Mint 220 Wireless Digital Music Station

MSRP: $154.99
SKU: 8750336

www.mintds.com

### Quick Overview

A cool, new way to listen to all audio from your computer! The Mint high-fidelity iPod dock speaker comes with a USB Wireless Audio Card that connects to your PC or Mac, which means you can enjoy all of your music content online and your computer's music players, completely unattached from the speaker. Simply plug the USB Audio Card into your computer and stream all of your audio wirelessly—with zero loss of fidelity—up to 45 feet.

### Perfect For

Any PC/iPod owner who craves crisp, room-filling sound without sacrificing portability.

### Outstanding Benefits

- **Lossless 2.4GHz wireless audio streaming from your Mac or PC** with the included Mint USB Wireless Audio Card, no extra software needed
- **Precise, high-fidelity audio performance** usually found only in more expensive systems—provided by Digital Signature's patented digital engineering and sealed enclosure design
- **Multimedia versatility** through the audio mini-jack (Line-in) port—enjoy the Mint's Digital Fidelity™ sound from your MP3 players, games, and much more

### Coolest Feature

**Plug-and-Play Wireless Connectivity:**
1. Plug the Mint USB Wireless Audio Card into your computer's USB port.
2. Play any of your music players or Internet music/videos on your computer.
3. Enjoy the high-fidelity Mint sound wirelessly from across the room. That's as simple as it can get.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Internet Radio
# The World's Most Advanced Personal Radio Player

## Slacker G2 Personal Radio Player

MSRP: Slacker G2 25 Stations (4GB) $199.99
SKU: 9069134

MSRP: Slacker G2 40 Stations (8GB) $249.99
SKU: 9069143

www.slacker.com

## Quick Overview

The sleek, ultra-portable Slacker G2 plays unlimited free music that's personalized just for you. Whether you listen to one of over 100 expert-programmed Slacker radio stations or custom stations that you create, the music evolves as you listen. New songs are personally selected for you and automatically loaded on the Slacker G2 via Wi-Fi so your radio stations are always ready to play wherever you go. Plus, you can read album reviews and artist bios with every song.

## Perfect For

Music lovers who want unlimited free access to millions of songs.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Listen to unlimited free music* from all of the major labels and thousands of independent labels
- Store up to 40 Slacker radio stations and your MP3 files
- Built-in Wi-Fi auto refreshes Slacker stations with new music
- Listen to music, even if the player isn't connected to a network
- Select stations from any Mac or PC and connect at Wi-Fi hotspots
- 2.4-inch color display displays album art, reviews, and artist bios
- Rechargeable battery delivers up to 15 hours of playback

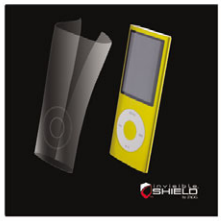
## Coolest Feature

Use the **personalization buttons** on the Slacker G2 to further customize your stations. The more you listen and give feedback, the better the music gets.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

* Free, ad-supported service allows access to entire Slacker music library and six track skips per hour, per station.

# Cell Phone & iPod Accessory
# Invisible Protection For Your Device



## ZAGG™ invisibleSHIELD™ Screen and Full body Protector For Device

MSRP: Front Screen $19.99
SKU: 8916694 (Apple iPhone 3G)
SKU: To Be Determined (LG Dare)

MSRP: Full Body $24.99
SKU: To Be Determined (Apple iPod Nano)
SKU: To Be Determined (iPod Touch)

www.zagg.com

## Quick Overview

invisibleSHIELD's pre-cut clear film not only guards your smartphone's screen against bumps and scratches—it protects your entire device. The thin patented film cover doesn't add bulk to your device and helps to improve grip, making it easier for you to keep a safe grasp on your investment.

## Perfect For

If you have invested in a smartphone, you will want to consider this simple and inexpensive way to protect it without adding the bulk of a case.

## Outstanding Benefits

- SHIELDs are available to fit BlackBerry Pearl, Curve, and 8800 models; Samsung Instinct; LG Dare; Apple iPhone 3G; iPod nano 4th Gen and iPod touch 2nd Gen
- ZAGG's Nano-Memory Technology™ invisibleSHIELD™ film is custom-cut to protect a specific device, ensuring a perfect fit
- Guards against bumps and scratches
- Doesn't add bulk, making your device easy to dock
- Improves grip, making it less likely you'll drop your phone
- Easy to remove without leaving behind sticky residue

## Coolest Feature

If your invisibleSHIELD™ is damaged while doing its job—protecting your gadgets—ZAGG™ will replace it for as long as you own your device.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Kensington

# iPod & MP3 Player Car Connections
## Pure Sound. Pure Control.

LiquidAUX™ Deluxe
for iPhone and iPod

MSRP: $99.99
SKU: 8980114

www.kensington.com

### Quick Overview

Listen to your favorite tunes through your car stereo with the Kensington LiquidAUX™ Deluxe for iPhone and iPod. Designed specifically for vehicles with in-dash auxiliary ports, this product delivers superior sound quality and charges your iPhone or iPod while it's held securely within view. For added convenience, you'll be able to select playback functions via a wireless remote control.

### Perfect For

The LiquidAUX Deluxe is perfect for anyone who is looking for an all-in-one iPod or iPhone car solution—you'll be able to listen to, charge, dock, and control your device all without hassle.

### Outstanding Benefits

- **Superior sound quality** is delivered from your car's direct auxiliary port connection and played throughout your car's stereo system
- **Charges iPhone and iPod devices**
- 2.4GHz **wireless remote control** lets you play, pause, and skip tracks from your iPhone and iPod music library
- Dock adjusts to **fit most iPhone and iPod** models, even when they're in a protective case
- **Conserve car battery power** with the Smart audio sensor
- A 4-foot audio extension cable is included for far-reaching auxiliary car ports

### Coolest Feature

The wireless remote control prevents you from fumbling with playback functions and lets you safely keep your eyes on the road.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

JAWBONE®

# Wireless Bluetooth® Headset
# Your Personal Noise Assassin™

Jawbone

MSRP: $129.99
SKU: 8835585

www.jawbone.com

## Quick Overview

The Jawbone® Bluetooth headset has the unique ability to eliminate background noise so you can hear and be heard in any environment—from the office to the store to the gym. And with new hands-free driving laws being enforced in states across the country, a Jawbone is quickly becoming a must-have.

## Perfect For

Those who covet the perfect blend of form and function. Individuals who demand the highest performance but do not want to compromise style and beauty to achieve it.

## Outstanding Benefits

- Patented NoiseAssassin™ Technology: Jawbone *literally* feels your speech with its Voice Activity Sensor (VAS), which distinguishes the sound of your voice and cancels ambient background noise
- Simple to use: Two streamlined buttons control all of the headset's functions
- Design: Made with premium materials and includes customized earbud fit options to provide a premium visual and ergonomic experience

## Coolest Feature

Jawbone's **patented NoiseAssassin™ technology** separates speech from ambient noise, providing unparalleled call clarity in all environments.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

MAGELLAN®

# GPS
# Your Favorites at Your Fingertips™

Magellan®
Maestro™ 4370

MSRP: $399.99
SKU: 9039257

www.magellangps.com

## Quick Overview

Effortless navigation! The Magellan Maestro 4370's new OneTouch™ feature gives you instant access to your favorite places and searches. Simply customize the OneTouch menu to display the points of interest you want easy access to—restaurants, banks, businesses, and so many more.

## Perfect For

GPS users who want to be in control of their travel experiences and want easy access to their favorite places available at the touch of their fingertips.

## Outstanding Benefits

- **4.3" WVGA color touchscreen** provides clear, crisp on-screen graphics and seamless touch panel
- **OneTouch menu** lets you create shortcuts to your favorite destinations, points of interest, and searches
- **Announces street names** and directions at each turn
- **Bluetooth® compatibility** enables hands-free calling with compatible phones
- **Lane guidance** for confident highway driving
- **Pedestrian mode** allows you to continue on your route once you've parked your car

## Coolest Feature

The customizable OneTouch™ menu truly enables you to make your Maestro 4370 device your own.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

# Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

iPods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

| | Memory type | Capacities | Songs | Video; FM tuner capabilities | Colors | Battery life |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts) | How much memory the player has (on models available at Best Buy) | Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold | Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations | Several players offer a variety of color choices | How long the battery will last when playing music |
| **SanDisk Sansa Clip** MSRP: $79.99* SKU 8753976 | Flash | 4GB | 2,000 (WMA) | Only an FM tuner | Silver | 15 hours |
| **SanDisk Sansa Fuze** MSRP: $79.99*; $99.99*; $129.99* SKU 8753789 | Flash | 2GB; 4GB; 8GB | 500; 1,000; 2,000 | Both | Black, red, pink, blue | 24 hours |
| **Apple iPod nano** MSRP: $149*; $199* SKU 8772964 | Flash | 8GB; 16GB | 2,000; 4,000 (AAC) | Only video | Silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, red, pink | 24 hours |
| **Microsoft Zune 8GB** MSRP: $149.99* SKU 9008502 | Flash | 8GB | 2,000 | Both | Blue | 24 hours |
| **Philips GoGear SA5285BT/37** MSRP: $149.99* SKU 9011598 | Flash | 8GB | N/A | Both | Black | 30 hours |
| **Samsung P2** MSRP: $199.99*; $249.99* SKU 8627961 | Flash | 4GB; 8GB | N/A | Both | Black, burgundy | 30 hours |
| **Apple iPod touch** MSRP: $229*; $299*; $399* SKU 8772063 | Flash | 8GB; 16GB; 32GB | 1,750; 3,500; 7,000 (AAC) | Only video | Black | 36 hours |
| **Apple iPod classic** MSRP: $249* SKU 8772036 | Hard drive | 120GB | 30,000 (AAC) | Only video | Black, silver | 36 hours |

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS device, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

| | Screen size; Dimensions | Text-to-speech; Traffic receiver | Preloaded maps | WAAS | Bluetooth; MP3 play-back | Included charging adapters |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What It Means** | The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth | Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and reroutes accordingly | The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit | A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy | Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s | AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter |
| **TomTom 130•S** MSRP: $249.95* SKU 8774427 | 3.5 inches; 3x3.6x0.8 inches | Yes; No | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada | No | No; No | DC adapter |
| **Garmin nüvi 255** MSRP: $249.99* SKU 8977574 | 3.5 inches; 2.8x3.8x0.8 inches | Yes; Yes | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada | No | No; No | DC adapter |
| **Magellan RoadMate 1212** MSRP: $249.99* SKU 8882845 | 3.5 inches; 3.2x3.6x0.6 inches | Yes; No | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada | Yes | No; No | DC adapter |
| **Insignia NS-CNV10** MSRP: $399* SKU 8947287 | 3.5 inches: 3.21x4x0.9 inches | Yes; Yes | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) | Yes | No; Yes | DC adapter; AC adapter |
| **TomTom Go 730** MSRP: $449.95* SKU 8774533 | 4.3 inches; 3.3x4.7x1 inches | Yes; Yes | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada | No | Yes; Yes | DC adapter |
| **Insignia NS-CNV20** MSRP: $499* SKU 8947312 | 4.3 inches; 3.21x4.68x 0.9 inches | Yes; Yes | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) | Yes | Yes; No | DC adapter; AC adapter |
| **Magellan Maestro 4370** See p. 80 MSRP: $399.99* SKU 9039257 | 5 inches; 4.65x3.26x 0.7 inches | Yes; Yes | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada | Yes | Yes; Yes | DC adapter; AC adapter |
| **Garmin nüvi 780** MSRP: $749.99* SKU 8674071 | 4.3 inches; 4.8x2.9x0.8 inches | Yes; No | Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) | No | No; No | DC adapter |

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# Keep Warm
## This Holiday Season

This season, why not keep warm and toasty with CE devices and accessories? These products from Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com) will help you keep Old Man Winter's chill at bay.

### HoMedics Heated Neck and Shoulder Massager

The perfect way to end your holiday shopping excursion.

$19.99

### Honeywell Cool Touch Whole Room Heater

Banish all things chilly in your favorite room.

$69.99

### Avital Remote Start System

Make your car toasty without setting a single foot in the snow.

$189.99

### Allsop Heat Therapy Wrist Rest

Soothe away your computing aches and pains.

$19.99

### Rainforest & Ocean Waves (CD)

Take your mind to warmer climates.

$19.98

### True Seating Concepts Puresoft Task Chair

Nothing beats a cozy chair on a cold wintry day.

$139.99

### Frigidaire Warm & Serve 27" Warming Drawer

Impress your holiday guests with piping-hot delights.

$849.99

# Get All The Details

on new CE products with *First Glimpse's* product profile sections


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